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Officials blast Afghan prison abuse charges

POLITICS Top Canadian military brass launched a withering attack yesterday against senior diplomat Richard Colvin and his allegations of a coverup of prisoner abuse in Afghan jails.

Three generals, including retired Gen. Rick Hillier, told a parliamentary committee that Colvin, 40, offered absolutely no proof detainees transferred to Afghan authorities by Canadians were tortured, and challenged his assertions of possible war crimes.

The denials counter previous explosive testimony by Colvin that he repeatedly warned senior government and military officials in 2006 and 2007 of detainees being tortured.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICES

MORE COVERAGE, PAGES 6 & 7

News on the Move

What's this barcode for?
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Canada pg 6

Kidnapped reporter freed

Gift Guide pg 18

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2010 Games **Ottawa's first torchbearer**

TRACEY HONGMETRO OTTAWA

Community volunteer and youth citizen of the year Mélissa Brunet was named the City of Ottawa's first torchbearer for the 2010 Olympics when the 45,000-kilometre Olympic torch relay hits the capital on Dec. 12. The 19-year-old University of Ottawa student called the honour "the cherry on top of the cake." Story, page 3.

Strike cost city $5.9M

Expenses wiped out savings on OC Transpo operations: Review

The city lost much more money than it saved over the course of last winter's 53-day transit strike, according to the city's auditor general.

From the first day of the strike on Dec. 11 until full service resumed on March 23, the city saved $21.5 million in wages and fuel costs, but lost $27.4 million in revenues and other expenses, resulting in a $5.9 million shortfall.

Auditor General Alain Lalonde said the tally was an accounting exercise that simply calculated the revenues and expenditures associated with the strike, but did not examine the effectiveness of any strike mitigation efforts.

"We didn't go further than looking at the numbers and putting the numbers together," he said. "It is a combination of decreasing revenues, obviously, and increasing costs that were greater than anticipated."

The total loss of revenue by OC Transpo from lost fares, charter fees and bus advertising totalled $28.1 million. Some of that was offset by increased revenue from Para Transpo ($136,000), parking ($4,000) and parking tickets ($840,000).

By not running any buses for 58 days, OC Transpo saved $17 million in labour costs, $8.8 million in parts, materials and supplies, and $394,000 in outside services, for a total savings of $25.4 million. However, a portion of those savings went towards covering increased Para Transpo services ($517,000) and outside services ($3.3 million), which included distributing $1 million in taxi chits to disadvantaged members of the public.

The city was also stuck with a $855,000 bill for not accepting fuel deliveries during the strike.

Since the strike ended, city treasurer Marian Simulik said the city has adopted a new fuel procurement practice that would avoid this type of penalty in the future.

TIM WIECLAWSKI/METRO OTTAWA

Absenteeism high among city workers: Ottawa's AG

TIM WIECLAWSKI
tim.wieclawski@metronews.ca

On average, employees in Ottawa take two more sick days per year than their counterparts in Toronto.

"This is a significant number," said Ottawa's auditor general Alain Lalonde, who released an audit of the city's sick leave management yesterday.

According to the report, city employees took 881,547 sick hours in 2007, an average of 10.6 days per employee, costing the city around $27.8 million.

This figure does not include Ottawa police and public library employees.

881,547
City employees took 881,547 sick hours in 2007, costing the city $27.8 million.

Lalonde concluded that the city is doing a poor job of managing absenteeism. Most city employees are allowed 10 sick days per year.

Lalonde said there is a mentality among employees that they are entitled to have sick days.

According to audit services manager Ray Kostuch, some groups averaged as many as 20 sick days per year. Employment financial assistance was 18 days and paramedics averaged 17 sick days per year, he said.

If more sick days are required, the employee must present medical documents, but the audit turned up many instances of dubious claims. "In some cases, the doctor said they hadn't even seen the patient," said Lalonde.

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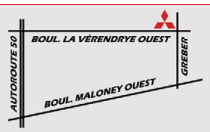

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Local

Bus operator charged with theft

OC Transpo special constables have arrested and charged a bus operator with two counts of theft under $5,000 following allegations that an operator accepted cash and fare media directly from passengers. OC Transpo has a policy that all cash and fare media are to only be deposited in fare boxes. The operator appears in court Jan. 11. METRO OTTAWA

METRO INTERNATIONAL NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR 2009 Festival of Media Awards

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News in brief

SEARCH A 34-year-old city man faces child pornography-related charges after police executed a search warrant at an Ottawa address. Police said yesterday they seized a computer and media and that a preliminary computer analysis revealed evidence of child pornography. Corey Bunker appeared in court yesterday.
METRO OTTAWA

metronews.ca
What's online today.

Video Former top soldier Rick Hillier claims he never saw torture documents at heart of Colvin testimony at metronews.ca/canada

Lotteries

Lotto 6/49: 5, 10, 16, 19, 33 & 47. Bonus 24.
Ontario 49: 3, 14, 15, 20, 33 & 43. Bonus 31.
Ontario Pick 3: 2 1 5; **Ontario Pick 4:** 7 4 5 4
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Student 'honoured' to carry torch

Busy teen surprised to be chosen city's first torchbearer for December leg of relay

TRACEY TONG
tracey.tong@metronews.ca

She's a volunteer for Ottawa Public Health's smoke-free youth initiative, the Special Olympics, Roger's House and at libraries and blood donor clinics.

She fundraises for the Ottawa Regional Cancer Foundation and practises and teaches jiu-jitsu. In May, she was named the city's youth citizen of the year.

And next month, Orleans resident Mélissa Brunet can add torchbearer to her list of accomplishments.

A biomedical sciences student at uOttawa, Brunet, 19, will be the City of Ottawa's first torchbearer for the 2010 Olympics when the torch comes to the capital Dec. 12.

At about 2:16 p.m., Brunet will run the torch to Marion Dewar Plaza in front of city hall, where officials will roll out the red carpet to greet her.

VANCOUVER 2010 Games

The route through Ottawa will cover roughly 75 kilometres with more than 220 torchbearers taking part.

With school and all her extracurricular activities, Brunet doesn't typically get a lot of time to watch the Games, but will try to catch hockey, her favourite event, and will "keep up on Canada's medal count for sure."

"I was really surprised and really honoured," Brunet said of being chosen. "To get rewarded is always an extra that I don't expect. To have this honour is the cherry on top of the cake."

To Brunet, the torch is about more than sports.

"It's something that unifies the country," she said. "It's a symbol of peace.

"And to represent people in this community means something to me."

Brunet's parents, Lorraine and Normand Brunet, are "very excited" for their daughter. Normand Brunet plans on getting "lots of pictures" when Brunet carries the flame to city hall.

The 45,000-kilometres Olympic torch relay lasts 100 days, culminating with the lighting of the Olympic cauldron during the opening ceremonies in Vancouver in February, said Mayor Larry O'Brien.

City on target for November vaccination goal: Doc

Flu Outbreak

More than a week since the city's mass vaccination clinics reopened, Ottawa Public Health is continuing to see "very brisk interest" in the H1N1 vaccine, the city's medical officer of health said yesterday.

Dr. Isra Levy estimates that, so far, the city has administered 280,000 to 290,000 doses of vaccine, meaning that one in three people in Ottawa "already or will very shortly receive their vaccination."

"We're pleased with that," said Levy. "We do expect that our original target of 40 per cent of the residents of Ottawa to have been vaccinated for pandemic influenza before the end of November will be obtained.

"Those who have not been vaccinated should avail yourselves of the opportunity to get vaccinated because it's a very good and specific protection against a disease that is still present in our community," he said.

TRACEY TONG/METRO OTTAWA

One in three Ottawans have received or will shortly receive their vaccine against H1N1, medical officer of health Dr. Isra Levy said yesterday.

While Levy said the city is seeing indicators of influenza activity in the community go down — "we have far, far fewer schools reporting absenteeism rates and emergency rooms in terms of volume have returned to normal," he said — the disease is still present.

Earlier this week, Ottawa Public Health announced that a sixth person has died as a result of flu-related complications. The woman had underlying health conditions.

In addition to the city's permanent clinics and roving clinics, the city is also supplying vaccines to close to 300 family physicians, Levy said.
TRACEY TONG/METRO OTTAWA

Conditions lower paramedics' response: Survey

AUDIT As a result of increased hospital wait times, substandard dispatch triaging and inadequate funding for growth, the city's auditor general concluded that Ottawa paramedic response times are in danger of slipping below the level legislated by the provincial Ambulance Act.

An eight-month survey of the paramedic service conducted in 2007 found 492 instances where fewer than seven ambulances were available citywide. There were 22 times when there were no ambulances available, which presents significant public safety concerns.

Auditor general Alain Lalonde said paramedics themselves are working very efficiently, but said an "ineffective" dispatch system that classifies 85 per cent of calls as life-threatening is the biggest problem.
TIM WIECLAWSKI/METRO OTTAWA

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VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR DEPRESSION RESEARCH

Psychiatrists at the Ottawa Psychopharmacology Clinic are currently conducting a research study of a medication for depression. The purpose of the study is to further our knowledge about the possible treatment of depression. Treatment duration is initially 8 weeks with possible continuation of up to 46 weeks in total. Included are a physical exam, blood tests and a psychiatric interview. All information provided will be treated in strictest confidence. To volunteer, you must be 18-70 of age, not currently in psychiatric treatment (unless you are being referred by your treating doctor), have no significant drug or alcohol problems and be in generally good physical health.

	YES	NO
I am feeling sad and depressed.	■	■
I am having difficulty sleeping.	■	■
I am feeling low in energy and slowed down.	■	■
My appetite has changed.	■	■
I am experiencing feelings of guilt.	■	■
I have lost interest in work and pleasurable activities.	■	■
I feel hopeless about the future.	■	■
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Research programs are reviewed by an ethics review board.

Tickets running out for hospital lottery
The Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario Foundation has fewer than 1,500 tickets remaining for the 2009 Dream of a Lifetime Lottery. METRO OTTAWA

A tale of two cities

Many in need despite Ottawa's income security: Report

While economic indicators are reporting that Ottawa is faring well in comparison with other Canadian cities, a United Way Ottawa report released yesterday has found that the demand for social services has increased.

The report, entitled From Obstacles to Innovation: The Impact of the Economic Downturn on Ottawa's Social Service Sector, found that the demand for services has increased by 84 per cent, said Karen Diguer, senior director of planning and evaluation for United Way Ottawa.

Over the past nine months, agencies have seen a sharp increase in demand for their services and programs in all demographic groups, including children and youth, new Canadians and immigrants, people with mental-health issues, and women — by more than 40 per cent each.

"You would think Ottawa was not affected because of the government base. We do enjoy a high level of income security," said Diguer. "But you almost have two cities — one that enjoys economic security and one that doesn't."

Funders are also seeing demand for funding dollars, said Diguer.

"We're seeing the perfect storm — increased demand and decreased funding available to meet the demand," she said. "But agencies aren't giving up, they're trying to use innovative ways of coping with this. They're increasing their collaboration and partnership with like-minded agencies to increase their capacity for service."

Diguer hopes the report will deepen residents' understanding that "Ottawa is not a recession-proof city."

TRACEY TONG/ METRO OTTAWA

Day of remembrance for Montreal Massacre

ANNIVERSARY The City of Ottawa will mark the 20th anniversary of the infamous shooting at École Polytechnique Dec. 6.

Mayor Larry O'Brien, who yesterday declared the city will observe that day as the École Polytechnique Day of Remembrance, said it is "a day when Canadians think about the women for whom violence is a daily reality and a day to remember those who have died as a result of gender-based violence."

In 1989, Marc Lepine shot and killed 14 women and injured 10 more at the Montreal school.

The Women's Event Network will also be holding a 20th anniversary vigil at the women's monument at Minto Park at 6 p.m. on Dec. 6.

The Ottawa Coalition to End Violence Against Women's Erin Williams said the group is also launching Tell 20, a campaign urging citizens to tell 20 other people about the anniversary and how violence against women affects their community.

TRACEY TONG/ METRO OTTAWA

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Lisa Baroud
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P.E.I. looks to pass bill to allow tobacco lawsuits

A bill has been introduced in the Prince Edward Island legislature that would allow the province to sue tobacco companies for past health-care costs related to the product's use. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canada

Family wants Douglas file released

The family of Canadian icon Tommy Douglas is urging the government to make public RCMP intelligence on the socialist firebrand and father of medicare, while an expert calls it ludicrous to claim any national security grounds to keep them secret. Actress Shirley Douglas, left, says she and her family believe the decades-old RCMP Security Service files should be turned over to a journalist who requested them four years ago. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Kidnapped journalist freed

Albertan says she was tortured during 15-month captivity

Canadian journalist Amanda Lindhout, freed after 15 months of captivity in war-torn Somalia, says she was kept isolated, beaten and tortured, so she dreamed of walking through Vancouver's Stanley Park to stay sane and not lose hope.

"My day was sitting on a floor in a corner, 24 hours a day for the last few months," Lindhout said in an interview with CTV from Mogadishu, the capital city of Somalia.

Lindhout, who is from Sylvan Lake, Alta., and Australian photographer Nigel Brennan were kidnapped Aug. 23, 2008. Somali officials said they were released yesterday.

"There were times I was beaten, I was tortured," said the freelance journalist, her voice breaking, as she described her days in a dark, windowless room. "It was an extremely, extremely difficult situation.

"The money wasn't coming quickly enough for these men, and they seemed to think if they beat me enough, then when I was able to speak with my mother (by phone every couple of months), I would be able to say the right thing to convince her to pay the ransom, which was a million dollars."

She said she tried to convince them her family didn't have that kind of money, but she said they believed all Canadians were that wealthy. Money was ultimately paid by the families, she said, but she didn't know how much.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Situation in Somalia

- Somalia is essentially lawless. The government controls parts of the African Horn country, but the rest is in the hands of feuding warlords and rebel groups. Violence and kidnapping of foreigners is commonplace, and Somali pirates have attacked foreign ships and taken hostages in coastal waters.

THE CANADIAN PRESS HANDOUT

Canadian freelance journalist Amanda Lindhout sits with a child in Mogadishu, Somalia, in this undated handout photo. After 15 months in captivity in Somalia Lindhout and Australian photographer Nigel Brennan have been freed.

Hillier says Colvin's claims are 'ludicrous'

AFGHANISTAN Canada's former top soldier has blasted claims by diplomat Richard Colvin that the military handed over Afghan prisoners to face torture despite warnings, calling the allegation "ludicrous."

A bristling Rick Hillier, mixing indignance with folksy charm, told a special Commons committee yesterday that reports from Afghanistan in 2006 never mentioned that prisoners were at risk of torture.

"We didn't base our work on things like reports written in May or June 2006, which said nothing about abuse, nothing about torture or anything else that would have caught my attention or indeed the attention of others," he testified.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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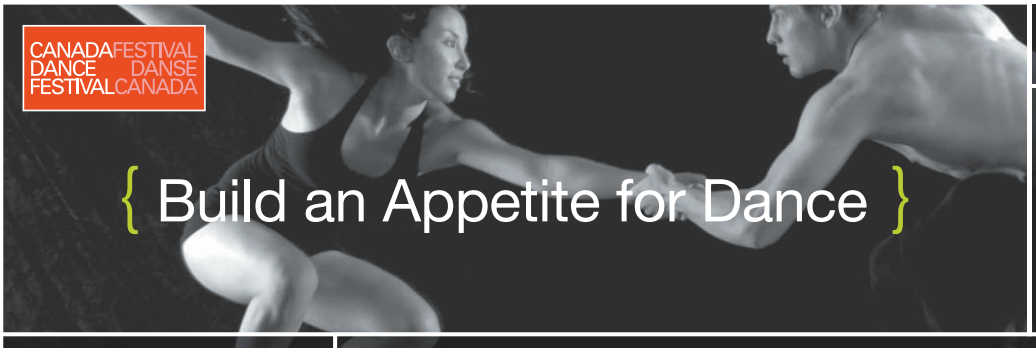
SCANLIFE

Torture whistleblower Richard Colvin's colleagues in D.C. hail the former diplomat's bravery. Scan this barcode for the full story.

News in brief

COUNTERFEIT Police arrested alleged members of a large counterfeiting ring in Ontario and Quebec yesterday that produced high-quality, fake government ID cards.

SWINE FLU There have been 24 confirmed cases of a type of severe allergic reaction called anaphylaxis in Canadians who have received an H1N1 flu shot. THE CANADIAN PRESS



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Inuit will make a mark in 2010
Next year has been declared the Year of the Inuit, CBC News Online reports. Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami president Mary Simon said she wants to raise awareness of the challenges Inuit face in Canada. The organization represents Canada's four Inuit regions. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Owning a home is costing you more

ECONOMY The cost of home ownership went up in Canada for the first time in 18 months, the Royal Bank reports.

And tight supply and strong demand are expected to keep prices high going forward in 2010.

Consumers planning to buy houses should take note that the current low interest rates aren't going to hold indefinitely, senior economist Robert Hogue said yesterday.

"Families and households that are considering making the leap have to be mindful that, yes, there are very attractive interest rates right now but it's not going to remain at this level forever," he said.

Costs increased for the first time since the spring of 2008 due to a slight rise in mortgage rates and higher property values, Hogue said

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Labour **Sid Ryan takes over the powerful OFL**

MICHAEL STUDINSKY/TORONTO NEWS SERVICE

Union leader Sid Ryan has been a polarizing figure in provincial politics — but as the new president of the Ontario Federation of Labour, he says he comes to Queen's Park in peace. Ryan, 57, who was acclaimed as president in Toronto yesterday, says he wants to work with the Liberals on building a "green" economy and repairing the province's gutted manufacturing sector.

Lawsuits filed over drop-side cribs

RECALL Class-action lawsuits have been filed across Canada on behalf of consumers who bought drop-side cribs now subject to a North American recall.

The action seeks a full refund for consumers who bought the cribs made by Stork Craft Manufacturing of Richmond, B.C.

The suits also name Fisher-Price, Sears and Wal-Mart.

The recall covers more than 2.1 million cribs and comes after at least 15 infants, including three in Canada, were trapped in the drop-side part of the product. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Torture spin backfired: Poll

Canadians didn't believe it

Canadians aren't buying the Harper government's assertion that there's no credible evidence Afghan detainees were tortured, a new poll suggests.

And a pollster says the results suggest the government's strategy of attacking whistleblower Richard Colvin's credibility has backfired badly.

Indeed, The Canadian Press Harris-Decima survey indicates Canadians believe Colvin's claim that all prisoners handed over by Canadian soldiers to Afghan authorities were likely abused.

They also think government officials were well aware of the problem.

"You don't need to be a rocket scientist or a pollster to know that there's something unseemly about taking an allegation that appears to be heartfelt and twisting it around and throwing it back in someone else's face," Harris-Decima chairman Allan Gregg said.

"There's something unseemly about taking an allegation that appears to be heartfelt ... and throwing it back."
Pollster Allan Gregg

He said the government would've been better advised to take Colvin's allegations "under advisement" rather than vilifying him as "a nutbar or a rogue kind of dupe of the Taliban."

In the poll, 51 per cent of respondents said they believe Colvin's testimony to the committee last week.

In stark contrast, only 25 per cent said they believe the government's contention that the diplomat's claims are flimsy and not credible. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Standards body unveils guide for oil and gas pipeline safety

The Canadian Standards Association has published a blueprint to help oil and gas companies protect their pipelines from vandalism and sabotage. It follows six bombings of EnCana pipelines in Western Canada over the past 13 months. No one was hurt in the attacks. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Cellphone ban? Drivers still dialing, say police

A driver zooming down a highway in Ottawa while texting with a BlackBerry in his lap is just one of the examples police are citing of people ignoring Ontario's ban on handheld devices.

Today, the province's prohibition on the use of hand-held devices by drivers will have been in effect for one month.

Ontario is the fourth province to enact such a ban, and some motorists still aren't getting the message, police say.

And at least one big-city police force says the new law has made surreptitious texting more dangerous than before.

"People one month ago would hold their BlackBerry device either right up to their ear or in front of them on the dashboard and do their texting," said Toronto police Sgt. Tim Burrows.

"I stop my bike ... and I went back to him, and sure enough the CrackBerry is right between his legs."
Sgt. Al Ferris

"Now they're trying to hide it, which is taking their eyes away from the road even longer than before."

Sgt. Al Ferris, with the Ottawa Police Service Traffic Escort Unit, was riding his motorcycle on the Queensway last week when he looked in his rear-view mirror and saw the driver behind him slowing down, gaining on him, then slowing down in the fast lane — all the while looking down between his legs.

"So I stop my bike in the middle of the lane and I went back to him, and sure enough the CrackBerry is right between his legs," said Ferris.

Starting Feb. 1, Ontario drivers could be fined up to $500.

Provincial police issued 1,109 warnings and 22 tickets for using a hand-held device while driving between Oct. 26 and Monday, Insp. Dave Ross said.

Ottawa police have given out 85 warnings but no tickets. THE CANADIAN PRESS

RAY BOURGEOIS/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Paula Belliveau, left, and Sara Gresh exchange the Olympic flames yesterday at Canadian Forces Base Gagetown in Oromocto, N.B. Follow the Olympic torch's journey with an interactive map at metronews.ca/sports.

CFB Gagetown welcomes the Olympic flame

TORCH A five-gun salute and the cheers of hundreds welcomed the Olympic flame as it was carried through Canadian Forces Base Gagetown near Fredericton yesterday in a show of national pride.

"It's very exciting and a lifelong dream to be part of the Olympics — although not as an athlete. This is my own Olympic moment," said Capt. Dave Nixon of Amherst, N.S.

The 43-year-old soldier, stationed at CFB Gagetown, was among 20 soldiers and civilians serving as torchbearers on the base.

Nixon, who has served in Bosnia and Afghanistan, said he felt overwhelming pride in his daily job and that of torchbearer.

"I look down at my left shoulder and I see the Canadian flag and that's a great honour for me, to get to wear that every day and come to work," he said.

"And this is something that is a Canadian initiative with 12,000 runners from across the country and different walks of life, all carrying that Olympic flame towards the Feb. 12 lighting in Vancouver, so it's a great national pride moment."

"It's very exciting and a lifelong dream to be part of the Olympics ... this is my own Olympic moment."
Capt. Dave Nixon

The sprawling New Brunswick base is the largest military training grounds in the Commonwealth.

It is one of 14 military bases the torch will visit during its 106-day journey across Canada.

Hundreds of residents and schoolchildren from the neighbouring community of Oromocto, N.B., turned out for the celebration at the base and lined the streets to cheer the runners on. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays from the merchants on the Sparks Street Mall

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Putin's tiger OK

A rare Siberian tiger that Vladimir Putin fitted with a radio-tracking collar is alive and well, the Russian prime minister's spokesman yesterday. Putin drew worldwide publicity in 2008 when he shot the five-year-old female with a tranquilizer gun and helped place a transmitter around her neck. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

World

Deadly floods pound South America

Officials say flooding from heavy rains has killed 12 people in three South American nations and forced more than 20,000 to flee their homes. Most of the dead are in southern Brazil. Sustained stormy weather has saturated the region and caused the river between Uruguay and Argentina to overflow its banks. Government agencies report that 10,000 people have been evacuated in Brazil, along with 8,000 in northeastern Argentina and 4,000 in Uruguay.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

News in brief

ATLANTA A nurse anesthetist has been charged with molesting and sodomizing anesthetized patients in dental and medical offices, and police say the videotaped abuses could involve 100 or more victims. Paul Patrick Serdula, 47, who worked in dental and medical offices across metro Atlanta, was arrested Monday night on child molestation and sodomy charges.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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7 charged in Mumbai attacks

News comes on eve of anniversary

Pakistan charged seven men in last year's Mumbai attacks yesterday, its first indictment in a case being monitored by India and the United States to see if Islamabad makes good on promises to bring those responsible to justice.

Despite a crackdown in the months following the attacks, analysts say Lashkar-e-Taiba, the Pakistani militant group blamed for the three-day assault on the financial centre that killed 166 people, remains active and largely untouched by Pakistani authorities.

The Mumbai attacks halted a peace process between Pakistan and India aimed at resolving their core dispute over Kahsmir, which they both claim. India says Pakistan must crack down on militants before talks can resume. The charges were announced in a closed door court located inside a high-security prison near the capital Islamabad, on the eve of the first anniversary of the attacks. A judge adjourned proceedings until Dec. 5.

Late yesterday, Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, who was in Washington, said the planners of the attacks are still free in Pakistan and issued a stern warning to punish the masterminds.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Police investigating Philippine election convoy massacre. Scan this barcode for the full story.
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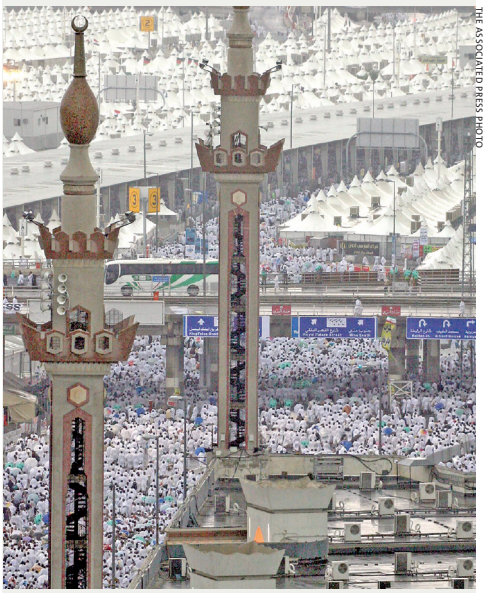
Saudi Arabia **Journey to Mecca**



THE ASSOCIATED PRESS PHOTO

Muslim pilgrims attend the hajj walk on flooded streets during heavy rains near Mecca, Saudi Arabia yesterday. The heaviest rainstorms to hit Islam's annual hajj in years soaked pilgrims and flooded the road into Mecca and Jiddah, snarling traffic as millions headed for the holy sites.

France does some soul-searching

PARIS What does it mean to be French?

That's the thorny question the government is putting to its people in what's being billed as a "Great Debate" — set against a backdrop of smouldering unrest in immigrant-heavy suburbs, a movement to ban full Muslim veils, and questions over whether France's essential identity is vanishing in a complex world. The question may seem straightforward but it is laden with paradox. France is a country that has one of the highest proportions of immigrants in Europe and endures recurrent tensions over religion — yet champions the notion of a consensual "Frenchness," anchored in secularism.

"Our world is cracking silently."
Jean-Pierre Door

"We're in a real denial of reality. Our world is cracking silently," said Jean-Pierre Door, a mayor who spoke yesterday at the first debate hosted at the Immigration Ministry. He said the dialogue is breaking long-held taboos.

This government-ordered soul-searching over the French identity is an effort to clarify and reaffirm the nation's values, which President Nicolas Sarkozy says have been "forgotten and sometimes denied."

All French citizens are in principle invited to participate in the series of meetings organized by the government across the country, lasting through Jan. 31.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

UN report finds complicity

CONGO One of Africa's most brutal rebel movements relies on a vast, international network of supporters in at least 25 countries, a UN report said. The findings show that the network of people help rebels in Congo buy arms and transfer money. The conclusions are a scathing indictment of how little the international community has done to cut off logistical support to the Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda, an ethnic Hutu militia.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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U.S. changes mind on landmine policy
The Obama administration is backtracking on an announcement that it had reviewed its policy allowing military use of land mines. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Group posts 9-11 texts

Authenticity of messages from fateful day unconfirmed

An activist group has begun posting 573,000 pager messages purportedly sent on Sept. 11, 2001, from "Second World Trade Center tower collapses" to "I'm ok&love you..xoxoxoxoxoxoxoxox."

The group, Wikileaks, says some of the messages were sent by federal and local officials, but most appear to be from regular people, including frantic New Yorkers trying to reach loved ones in and around the World Trade Center.

Wikileaks was posting the messages for most of the day yesterday and expected to finish early Thursday.

The messages range from "DO NOT GET ON THE PATH TRAIN...THE WORLD TRADE CENTER IS ON FIRE" to "President has been rerouted wont be returning to washington but not sure where he will go."

Some are unrelated to the terrorist attacks: "Paul, Jerry and I feel that we can expect around 200 people for the Pig Picking. Call if you want to. Keith"

Wikileaks says its goal is to promote transparency by putting leaked documents online. Its repository includes manuals, lawsuits and numerous government documents.

Daniel Schmitt, a Wikileaks spokesman from Berlin, said the pager messages were submitted to the site anonymously several weeks ago.

"From the context information that the source provided we have strong reasons to believe that this is valid data," Schmitt said.

Schmitt said publishing the messages "is one more building block to getting a full picture of what happened on that day." He noted that none of the messages appear to lend credence to conspiracy theories that suggest the U.S. government was behind the attacks or had advance knowledge of them.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

No comment

- New York City's police and fire departments said they could not confirm that any of the messages were actual department communications. The Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, the U.S. Secret Service and the Federal Emergency Management Administration declined to comment on the messages.

News in brief

MOROCCO A Swiss adventurer trying to soar from Morocco to Spain on jet-powered wings has ditched safely into the Atlantic after hitting turbulence and clouds so thick he could not tell if he was flying up or down. The bad weather — not mechanical malfunction, as reported earlier — thwarted Yves Rossy's bid yesterday to become the first person to achieve such an intercontinental crossing.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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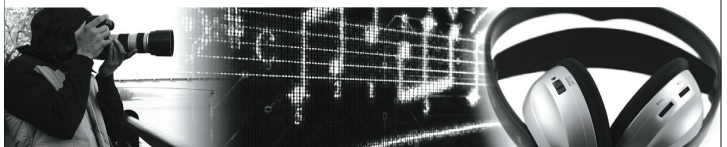

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Comment

The workplace romance ... at home

Relating

I dropped in on an old friend who, since I'd last seen him, has not only gone into business for himself, but is working with his wife. Couples who can manage to do this sort of thing fascinate me.

So I asked him, "How is she as a co-worker?"

"She's great," he replied. What else is he going to say?

Working with someone with whom you're already entangled is the reverse of the workplace romance as we usually know it. Instead of watching a lover emerge from a stranger, you watch a stranger of sorts, a professional self, emerge from your lover.

That's exciting, sure, and many couples' complaints won't be yours anymore. You'll certainly see enough of each other, be more involved in each other's lives, but we should always be careful of what we wish for.

Is your attachment strong enough to survive a highly personal office brand of politics? What happens to your relationship — or your business — when one or the other fails? The exit interview could be remarkably unpleasant. How do you make your partnership more Naomi Klein and Avi Lewis, less Ike and Tina Turner?

Times like these, in which jobs evaporate and self-employment beckons, tempt more couples to experiment with working together. It's been tried often enough that there are countless how-to articles, written by successful power couples, usually with lists of rules.

Alas, since these are relationships after all, everybody's rules are different, and often contradictory. "What happens at work stays at work," advises one guru. "What happens at home stays at home."

Another warns, "Don't separate work from the rest of your life ... The idea that 'work time' and 'time off' are separate is a false distinction."

Thanks for clearing that up, gurus.

I've never tried this particular setup myself (I prefer to be the one listening to the complaints about work than the subject of those complaints) but I've seen many couples do it with style. Unsurprisingly, they tend to be married. Any marriage, after all, is already a de facto small business.

Steve Collins offers his best guesses on relationships for Metro every two weeks.

Views

Gender studies support crucial lessons

FourthWave

As many women do in university, I took a few women's studies classes. I remember in one mostly female class the teacher asked who was feminist; my hand was among a few that went up. But in class discussions, my classmates' thoughts on gender roles or reproductive rights made it clear that's exactly what they are.

It's an apt example of how necessary gender studies are; that young adults can dismiss feminism as radical yet recognize the cornerstones of the movement is evidence of this.

Fortunately, two initiatives are underway to change that.

Ontario's education ministry announced earlier this month that a gender studies class would be offered beginning in September 2011 — a crucial lesson for young men and women just starting to learn how to relate to one other.

Shameless Magazine, a Canadian feminist magazine, has launched free weekend workshops on journalism for teen girls called Shameless Wire. By teaching them the fundamentals of the trade, Shameless hopes to introduce more voices to tell the story of our diverse society.

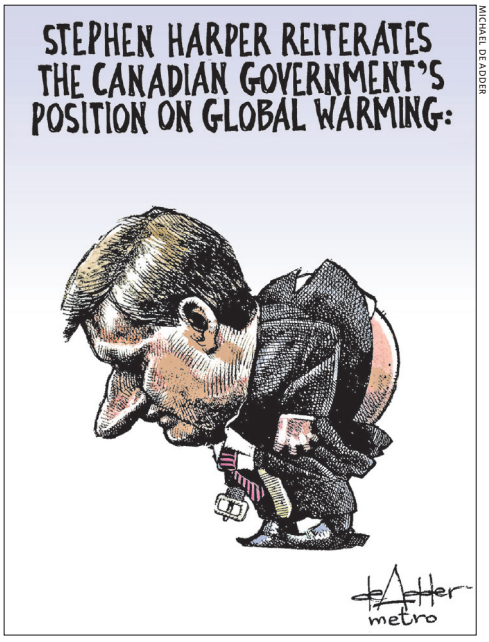
As it is, degrees and unpaid internships are practically prerogatives to become a journalist, limiting the field to those who can pay their way in. Women comprise the majority of the incoming talent pool (two in three journalism students are women, according to a 2003 U.S. study), but men hold 65 per cent of supervising positions at newspapers, a 2006 study says.

Perhaps the simplest, most important reason is this: "Very few other industries would consider this kind of model acceptable," said Allison Martell, one of two women who created Shameless Wire. "It's not because I think we need to be a token, I just think we're going to have the best workforce if we make sure it's open to everyone."

The lesson holds true outside the newsroom, too. What we absorb in our daily lives shapes our identities. As Emily Gould wrote on moreintelligentlife.com: "Women have not yet come so far that we can shrug off worries about being misrepresented."

My hope is these two programs will offer a lesson not to just young adults, but to all of us: There is nuance in the world and, by acknowledging it, we're better for it.

Canice Leung is a former editor of Ryerson University feminist magazine McClung's, copy editor at Metro, ardent feminist and loudmouth.



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See dealer or gm.ca for additional details. ▼▼To qualify for GM Canada's Cash For Clunkers incentive, you must qualify for the Retire Your Ride Program, supported by the Government of Canada, and you must turn in a 1995 model or older vehicle that is in running condition and has been registered and insured for the last 6 months (12 months in B.C.). Upon Government confirmation of vehicle eligibility under the "Retire Your Ride Program", GM Canada will provide an incentive towards the purchase or lease of a new 2009 or 2010 GM vehicle, excluding Medium Duty trucks, in an amount ranging from $500 to $3,000, depending on the model purchased. Incentive applied after taxes. If you successfully complete the "Retire Your Ride" program, you will be eligible for a $300 cash incentive. By participating in this program you will not be eligible for any trade-in value for your vehicle. GM Canada's Cash For Clunkers incentive is only available to customers who take delivery between November 3, 2009 and January 4, 2010. GM Canada's Cash For Clunkers offer may not be combined with certain other incentives available on GM vehicles, including the 60 Day Satisfaction Guarantee. See your participating GM dealer for additional program conditions and details. Residents of Northwest Territories, Yukon or Nunavut are excluded from the Government's Retire Your Ride program and are therefore ineligible for GM Canada's Cash For Clunkers incentive. Some conditions apply. Visit www.retireyourride.ca for more information.

Two Euro firms win Nortel bid

Nortel Networks Corp. auctions off Global System Mobile to Telefonaktiebolaget LM Ericsson and Kapsch CarrierCom AG in joint bid for US$103 million. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Business

EDITOR: FERMIN.DESOUZA@METRONEWS.CA

Loonie shines in Russia

The Canadian dollar shot closer to parity with the U.S. dollar yesterday after the Russian central bank said it is preparing to invest in the loonie and diversify away from the American greenback.

The Russian central said it plans to invest some of its foreign exchange reserves in Canada's currency to diversify its portfolio and reduce dependence on the U.S. dollar.

The Canadian dollar rose to its highest level in a week, reaching an intraday high around noon at $95.69.

Meanwhile, the U.S. dollar slid to a 15-month low against the euro and to its weakest level against the yen since January.

Coinciding with the American dollar's weakness, the gold sector headed higher into record territory, up $12.60 to US$1,178.40 an ounce.

A Canadian market that has fared better than many during the recession, and a sluggish U.S. economy, make Canada an ideal investment for banks looking to diversify their investments away from U.S. dollar reserves, the staple reserve currency in most countries, said Steven Butler, director of foreign exchange at Scotia Capital.

Russia's is not the first central bank to diversify into the Canadian dollar, there has also been interest in Latin America and Asia, he added.

"The Canadian economy has weathered the storm much better than a lot of other countries and Canada seems like a pretty logical place to diversify, especially the way the commodities have been climbing higher and the way the Canadian dollar has weathered the storm."

The size of investment in the loonie has not been confirmed.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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In brief

PROFIT Canadian corporations earned $54.1 billion in operating profits in the third quarter, up 7.9 per cent from the previous quarter after three straight quarterly declines. Overall gains were widespread, as 18 of 22 industries reported higher profits in Q3.

COURT Newsprint giant AbitibiBowater's cost savings efforts took a step forward yesterday after two Quebec judges endorsed changes that will save the insolvent company nearly $5 million a year. They include the sale of a pulp and paper mill in Quebec.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

99% in favour of EnCana split

EnCana Corp.'s plans to split itself into two separate companies received such overwhelming support from shareholders yesterday even the company's chief executive was caught a bit off guard.

Randy Eresman, who is to head up the unconventional natural gas-focused company that will emerge from the split, told reporters he knew major shareholders supported the transaction.

What he didn't expect was a near-unanimous vote — at least 99 per cent — in favour of the split at a special shareholder meeting in Calgary yesterday.

"It's kind of unheard of in any transaction."
Randy Eresman

"It's kind of unheard of in any transaction," Eresman said in a news conference.

EnCana first announced its split plans in May of 2008, but in the depths of the recession decided to put the transaction on hold.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Ecuador.....12.9 ¢	Fiji..... 24.9 ¢	Saudi Arabia from 3.9 ¢
El Salvador. ..... 9.9 ¢	Ghana.....9.9 ¢	South Korea.. 2.9 ¢
Jamaica..... 8.9 ¢	Greece.....2.9 ¢	Sri Lanka.....11.9 ¢
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Skater banned from Olympics after alleged theft of car

Russian figure skater Andrei Lutai will miss the Winter Olympics after receiving a one-year ban for allegedly stealing a car in the United States and driving it while drunk. Russian Figure Skating Federation chief Valentin Piseyev said Lutai's suspension is for "violations of the training regime and ethical norms." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Sports

Weir to be enshrined

Mike Weir's career is about to come full circle. The lefty from Bright's Grove, Ont., will return to his hometown Saturday to be inducted into the Canadian Golf Hall of Fame during a reception at Huron Oaks, the golf course where he honed his game as a kid. THE CANADIAN PRESS

EDITOR: DON.MCHOULL@METRONEWS.CA

BILL KOSTROUN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

New Jersey Devil Tim Sesito battles for control of the puck with Ottawa Senator Chris Phillips last night in Newark, N.J.

Devils end Sens' streak

NHL

Senators 1 Devils 3

AT

Niclas Bergfors, Patrik Elias and Jamie Langenbrunner scored goals, and Martin Brodeur made 24 saves to help the New Jersey Devils beat the Ottawa Senators 3-1 last night.

Andy Greene added two assists as the Devils ended a three-game losing streak.

Milan Michalek scored for the Senators, who had won four in a row — all at home.

A lucky bounce played a key role on Bergfors' goal at 7:58 of the first period. Greene fired the puck into the Ottawa zone where it took a favourable bounce off the glass, angling right to the slot where Bergfors deposited it behind Brian Elliott.

Michalek got his team-leading 11th goal for Ottawa at 12:34 to tie it 1-1. Jesse Winchester fired a shot from the left point that Michalek tipped past Brodeur.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Sports in brief

HOCKEY Ottawa 67's forward Tyler Toffoli was named Canadian Hockey League player of the week yesterday. Toffoli recorded eight points (four goals, four assists) and had a plus-2 rating in three games last week.

TENNIS Rafael Nadal fell out of contention for a spot in the semifinals at the ATP World Tour Finals with a second straight defeat, losing 6-1, 7-6 (4) yesterday against Nikolay Davydenko.

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'It's something any father would do'

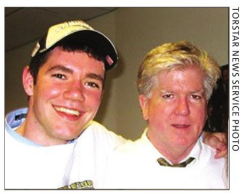
Brian Burke can be gruff and macho, belligerent and truculent. He can scowl and snarl with the best of them. In short, he can be quite intimidating.

But the hard-nosed president and general manager of the Toronto Maple Leafs has revealed a much softer, caring side to his personality — the loving and supportive father.

And he's garnered widespread praise for supporting his son, Brendan, who summoned up the courage to tell his father he was gay.

"Brian is being what every dad generally is: Very supportive of his son, unconditional love," said Leaf coach Ron Wilson. "If I was in the same position, I'd be doing exactly what Brian did. I think it shows a different side of Brian that not many people know. I've known Brian for more than 35 years, I understand the softer side he never lets out, the caring type of person that he is."

The topic was on everybody's lips in both dressing rooms prior to last night's Leaf-Lightning game.



TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE PHOTO

Brendan Burke poses for a photo with his father, Brian.

"It's something any father would do," said veteran forward Jamal Mayers.

Some players were asked if an openly gay teammate would ever be accepted.

"Why not?" said Lightning forward Steve Stamkos. "It's a weird question. It's a personal thing. If you want to come out, good for you."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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SCOREBOARD

NHL

OVERALL STANDINGS
EASTERN CONFERENCE

	GP	W	L	OL	GF	GA	Pt
d-Pittsburgh	25	17	8	0	77	69	34
d-Washington	25	14	5	6	87	73	34
d-Boston	24	12	8	4	59	59	28
New Jersey	22	15	6	1	61	49	31
Philadelphia	22	13	8	1	75	60	27
OTTAWA	**22**	**12**	**7**	**3**	**67**	**65**	**27**
N.Y. Rangers	24	13	10	1	74	66	27
Buffalo	21	12	7	2	54	52	26
Atlanta	21	11	7	3	73	61	25
Tampa Bay	22	9	6	7	59	67	25
Montreal	25	12	12	1	63	72	25
NY Islanders	25	9	9	7	68	76	25
Florida	23	10	9	4	63	74	24
Toronto	23	5	11	7	61	85	17
Carolina	23	5	13	5	53	83	15

WESTERN CONFERENCE

	GP	W	L	OL	GF	GA	Pt
d-San Jose	25	16	5	4	85	62	36
d-Chicago	22	15	5	3	70	49	32
d-Colorado	24	14	7	3	74	71	31
Calgary	22	13	6	3	69	62	29
Dallas	23	11	6	6	70	65	28
Los Angeles	24	13	9	2	73	75	28
Nashville	22	13	8	1	53	57	27
Columbus	23	12	8	3	72	84	27
Phoenix	24	13	10	1	59	59	27
Detroit	23	11	8	4	68	66	26
Vancouver	23	12	11	0	67	60	24
Edmonton	24	10	11	3	72	75	23
St. Louis	21	8	9	4	50	54	20
Anaheim	22	8	11	3	63	75	19
Minnesota	23	8	12	3	55	70	19

d - division leaders ranked 1-2-3 regardless of points

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

Toronto 4 Tampa Bay 3
New Jersey 3 OTTAWA 1
Pittsburgh 3 Montreal 1
Atlanta 2 Detroit 0
Boston 2 Minnesota 1 (SO)
N.Y. Rangers 2 Florida 1 (SO)
Philadelphia 2 N.Y. Islanders 1
Washington 2 Buffalo 0
St. Louis at Dallas N
Nashville at Colorado N
Los Angeles at Edmonton N
Phoenix at Calgary N
Carolina at Anaheim N
Chicago at San Jose N

TODAY'S GAMES

Columbus at OTTAWA
Los Angeles at Vancouver

NBA

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

Charlotte 116 Toronto 81
Boston 113 Philadelphia 110
Cleveland 98 Detroit 88
Dallas 130 Houston 99
Denver 124 Minnesota 111
Indiana 86 L.A. Clippers 73
Miami 99 Orlando 98
Milwaukee at New Orleans
Golden State at San Antonio
Memphis at Phoenix
New York at Sacramento
New Jersey at Portland

TODAY'S GAMES

Orlando at Atlanta, 8 p.m.
Chicago at Utah, 10:30 p.m.

NFL

TODAY'S GAMES

Green Bay at Detroit, 12:30 p.m.
Oakland at Dallas, 4:15 p.m.
N.Y. Giants at Denver, 8:20 p.m.

SUNDAY'S GAMES

Miami at Buffalo, 1 p.m.
Carolina at N.Y. Jets, 1 p.m.
Seattle at St. Louis, 1 p.m.
Tampa Bay at Atlanta, 1 p.m.
Indianapolis at Houston, 1 p.m.
Cleveland at Cincinnati, 1 p.m.
Washington at Philadelphia, 1 p.m.
Kansas City at San Diego, 4:05 p.m.
Jacksonville at San Francisco, 4:05 p.m.
Arizona at Tennessee, 4:15 p.m.
Chicago at Minnesota, 4:15 p.m.
Pittsburgh at Baltimore, 8:20 p.m.

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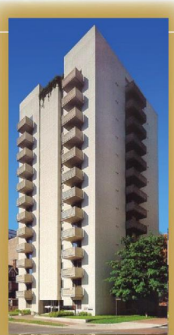

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Treat yourself!
If you're out shopping and need a pick-me-up, why not go for one of these holiday lattes from Starbucks? Flavours include Peppermint Mocha, Gingerbread, and Caramel Brulée. Five cents US from the sale of every latte will be donated to RED on Dec. 1. METRO NEWS SERVICES

HOLIDAY

Shopping Guide

SPECIAL FEATURES EDITOR: STEPHANIE.BOMBA@METRONEWS.CA

Shoot to thrill with cameras

From DSLRs to camcorders, there's something for every photographer on your list

RAFAEL BRUSILOW
for Metro Canada

A picture truly is worth a thousand words so snap away this holiday season with some of Metro's best picks for photographic fun:

Samsung ST550 dual-screen camera
$399.99

If you love hanging out with friends but hate having all those self-portrait group shots turn out skewed or with people cut out, the ST550 camera is for you. As the world's first dual-LCD camera, the ST550 places a second 1.5-inch LCD screen on the front, lens-forward part of the camera to let you see exactly how you're framing your self-portrait. You'll also notice there are no buttons on the back of the camera, which is taken up entirely by a huge 3.5-inch touch screen that lets you take and edit your photos using just your finger. With 12.2 megapixels, image stabilization and smart face recognition to boot, this is one cool camera.

Nikon D3000 DSLR w/ 18-15mm VR lens
$639.95

A killer rig for the enthusiastic amateur photographer, Nikon's D3000 is the premiere entry-level Digital SLR camera on the market. Don't let the entry-level tag fool you though, there is nothing stripped down or feature-famished about this model. With an 11-pt autofocus, large DX format CCD sensor, three-inch LCD monitor and coming with versatile 18-55mm VR lens (VR stands for Vibration Reduction, Nikon's version of image stabilization) this is way more camera than you should be getting for the money. For real DSLR first-timers, the camera sports a powerful guide mode to help teach you not only all the ins and outs of the camera, but the most crucial principles of DSLR photography as well.

Olympus Stylus Tough-6000
$329

Built to survive situations that would see other cameras either shatter into shards or shut down for good, the 10-megapixel Tough-6000 is touted by Olympus as being able to survive a five-foot drop, being submerged 10 feet underwater, sat upon or even frozen to -10 C. The body has a built-in "tap control" whereby things like flash mode or picture playback can be accessed simply by tapping the sides or back of the camera — ideal for when you're wearing gloves on the winter slopes or diving to snap shots of dolphins. If there ever was a truly child-proof camera that not even your delightful nephew could ruin with his "eccentric" ways of playing with toys, this is it.

Canon 7D DSLR camera
$2,099.99

Canon's newest DSLR addition is the real deal — a professional level camera at a semi-professional price that really understands what makes photography fun. The 7D takes Canon's excellent CMOS sensor to new heights with 18-megapixels attached to two Digic 4 image processors, which enable the rig to take photos at 8 fps in continuous shooting mode with ISO ratings up to 12,800 for superior low-light photo taking. Canon consulted with more than 5,000 professional photographers worldwide to find out exactly what they wanted from a camera and the result is a swath of revolutionary features like an intelligent light metering system, a bright viewfinder with 100 per cent coverage, full HD 1080p video shooting, a built-in transmitter for external flashes and even a dual-axis electronic level built into the viewfinder so you'll never have to take skewed shots that look like the Titanic is constantly sinking. This camera might even slay dragons if you find the right button.

Kodak Zi8 pocket video camera
$199.95

Small but feature-packed, the Kodak Zi8 is convenient and fun to use. This compact but powerful little video camera is great for taking quick vids on-the-fly for your Youtube or Facebook postings. Despite its smaller size and price, the camera packs in full 1080p HD video capabilities, image stabilization, face detection and comes with HDMI and AV cables included. Easy to carry and use, the Zi8 is perfect for budding pocket-directors.

Flip Video MinoHD camcorder
$279.99

If cuteness could transform into a camera, the MinoHD might just be the form it would take. While the spry little camera can take up to 60 minutes of high-definition video and features an internal rechargeable battery, it also has plenty of style: Yours. The MinoHD has a fully customizable exterior, from cool prints to interesting patterns to your own photos or images, making sure every Mino is unique. The personalization is fully included in the price and the camera weighs just over three ounces.

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1. **Spa-lendid Friends! ornament**, $22.98 at Hallmark. For more, go to hallmark.ca.
2. **Glass Cake Stand ornament**, $8.95 at Pier 1 Imports. For more, go to pier1.ca.
3. **Santa Belly ornament**, $4.95 at Pier 1 Imports. For more, go to pier1.ca.
4. **Shoe ornament**, $11.99, with "If the shoe fits, buy it" printed on it. Available at Hallmark. For more, go to hallmark.ca.
5. **Retro plane ornament** by HomeSense, $5.99. For more, go to homesense.ca.
6. **Feathered glass bird ornaments**, $5.99 for a set of three at HomeSense. For more, go to homesense.ca.
7. **Distressed wood snowflake ornament with mirrored detail**, $5.99 at HomeSense. For more, go to homesense.ca.
8. **Glass polka-dot ornament**, $4.99 at HomeSense. For more, go to homesense.ca.
9. **Mercury glass ornaments**, $3.99 each at HomeSense. For more, go to homesense.ca.
10. **Notes of Joy glass ornament**, $24.97 at Hallmark. For more, go to hallmark.ca.

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Holiday Shopping Guide

Gifts for the reader on your list

BRIAN COULTON
for Metro Canada

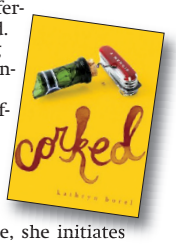
A funny French wine tour memoir from a new Canadian writer and the dark sophomore novel by an Australian singer are among Metro's literary must-haves for this holiday season.

Whether you're trekking old-fashioned to the bookstore or stuffing stockings with a click, consider these top publishing picks of 2009.

Corked

Author: Kathryn Borel Jr.
Publisher: John Wiley & Sons
Price: $29.95 (hardcover)

The road to hell is paved with grapevines in this comic breakout memoir by Toronto radio producer and writer Kathryn Borel Jr. Despite growing up with regular tasting lessons from her wine connoisseur father Philippe, Kathryn's vintage vocabulary hasn't quite fermented. Aiming to connect with often-headstrong



Philippe, she initiates a father-daughter wine quest through France. But the well-intentioned trip soon turns sour as she struggles to reconcile her father's outrageous behaviour with her own strenuous past. Written in Borel's sharp-witted, self-assured voice, Corked marks the introduction of an expressive, honest writer whose rich, vivacious voyage proves to be compassionate as it is, itself, corked.

Generation A

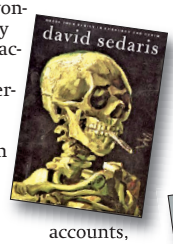
Author: Douglas Coupland
Publisher: Random House Canada
Price: $32.95 (hardcover)

Eighteen years after the release of his breakout novel Generation X, Vancouver-based Douglas Coupland follows the narrative style and theme that brought him to recognition in Generation A. In the near future, bees have all gone extinct. But when five strangers from Canada, the United States, France, New Zealand and Sri Lanka are each stung, they become embroiled in mass media attention, studies and eventual capture by a scientist determined to discover their connection in his own way. Blending sentiments of optimism with catastrophe, Coupland continues his astute reflection on popular culture and technology, always coloured by his distinctive brand of humour.

When You Are Engulfed in Flames

Author: David Sedaris
Publisher: Little, Brown & Co.
Price: $17.99 (paperback)

In this sixth collection of personal essays by matter-of-fact American humourist and storyteller David Sedaris, the writer continues to mine the seemingly mundane, turning his daily experiences into wonderfully wry accounts of personal discovery. In more than 22 short accounts, Sedaris probes his boyfriend Hugh's quick-paced walk, sharing a boarding house with some unexpectedly less-than-refined roommates, and how it took a trip halfway around the world for him to quit smoking cigarettes. Equal parts absurd and understanding, When You Are Engulfed In Flames propels Sedaris' frank storytelling prowess.



The Death of Bunny Munro

Author: Nick Cave
Publisher: HarperCollins Canada
Price: $29.99 (hardcover)

Don't let the ironically adorable fluffy bunny costume on this book's cover fool you. The book's morbidly humorous tone turns grim when Bunny encounters the unforgiving skeletons in his closet.

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BEATING THE COM

Jackie Kennedy dress shows off seasonal style

A deep pink silk dress worn by Jacqueline Kennedy for her second holiday season in the White House has gone on display at the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum in Boston.

The first lady wore the dress to the White House staff Christmas reception on Dec. 12, 1962. The sleeveless dress by designer Hubert de Givenchy is simple in front, with twists of drapery and a bow on the back.

The Marine Band and singing groups from the Air Force, Army and Navy entertained the 1,200 party guests. A 16-foot (five-metre) Christmas tree was decorated with toys, candy canes and gingerbread houses.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE PHOTO

The dress worn by Jacqueline Kennedy alongside a White House Christmas tree in Washington

The dress went on display Wednesday. The museum is open year-round except on Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's Day.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Consider shopping online to avoid stress of long lines and crowds

When it comes to holiday shopping, research has shown the majority of Canadians dislike the crowds and long lines associated with this extremely busy shopping period.

Whether it's scouring the parking lot for an available spot or standing in line at the cash, the long lines make for an unpleasant experience.

Consumers looking for an alternative should consider shopping online. Many retailers have robust e-commerce sites that are open 24-7, making it convenient and easy to browse and buy.

Whether you're an experienced online shopper or an Internet newbie, here are a couple tips from Nicky Mezo, head of marketing for PayPay Canada, to help you get started on your holiday shopping:

- **Look for alternate shipping options for U.S. merchants.** If you can't find the item you're looking for locally, consider purchasing it from a U.S. retailer and using a packaging forwarding service like MyUS.com. The service allows the merchant to ship to a U.S. address and arranges for the packages to be shipped to you.
- **Take advantage of comparison shopping.** There's no need to run from store to store, so it's easy to compare selection and pricing between different retailers. There are great online resources that can point you in the right direction.
- **Use a secure payment method.** Most consumers are concerned about entering their banking or credit card information on multiple websites. Look for online retailers that offer a secure payment method that ensures you're only entering your account information once on a highly secure site.

NEWS CANADA

For the chef
Gourmet Today, edited by Ruth Reichl, features more than 1,000 recipes including some for meals that are ready in 30 minutes or less. Available for $49.95 at Indigo and Chapters stores, or $32.96 online at chapters.indigo.ca. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Books the kids will absolutely adore

BRIAN COULTON
for Metro Canada

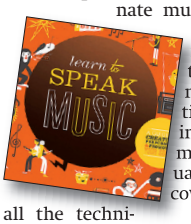
From an epic journey in the Norwegian bush to a junior jaunt through the music industry, Metro's holiday book picks for kids focus on accomplishment, whether it's mastering a new skill or overcoming the odds.

Give your eight- to 12-year-old one of these good reads, marking 2009 highlights in youth publishing.

Learn to Speak Music

Author: John Crossingham
Publisher: Owlkids Books
Price: $19.95 (paperback)

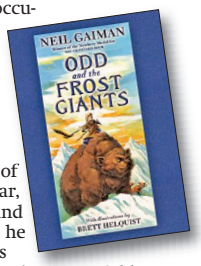
The language of music is universal and in this fully illustrated and informative guide, Toronto-based musician John Crossingham (who plays with Broken Social Scene) is your MSL guide to reaching rock star status. Aimed at fostering kids' inspiration and innate musical ability, the motivating manual covers all the technical bases from choosing an instrument, forming a band and recording, to hands-on marketing techniques like designing T-shirts and concert posters. Simple and entertaining language paired with tips from Canadian pros like Metric's Emily Haines, Ron Sexsmith and Feist, and accompanying playlists will prime performers of any age and experience.



Odd and the Frost Giants

Author: Neil Gaiman
Publisher: Harper
Price: $19.99 (hardcover)

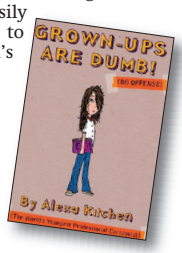
For the followup to his Newbery Medal-winning novel, The Graveyard Book, English author Neil Gaiman enters the winter-touched ancient forests of Norway, accompanied by scenic illustration by Brett Helquest. After the death of his father and an accident that crippled his own leg, it seems young Odd is stuck in a run of bad luck. But he becomes a good omen for Asgard, city of the gods, when he discovers he may have what it takes to liberate it from the occupying Frost Giants. With the help of a bear, fox and eagle he meets along the way, Odd uses quick thinking and a brave face to topple the Frost Giants and return Asgard to its rightful inhabitants.



Grown-Ups Are Dumb (No Offense)

Author: Alexa Kitchen
Publisher: Disney Hyperion
Price: $11.50 (paperback)

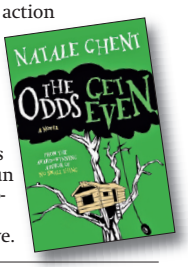
She's bold, she draws, she writes ... and she's only 12 years old. Massachusetts-based Alexa Kitchen, "the world's youngest professional cartoonist," has published comic books since age 5 and her latest collection takes aim at absurd moms, dads and adults everywhere. Mixing one-off strips with series character cartoons featuring female protagonists like That Molly Kid, Hurricane Abby and Kathy Ford, Kitchen's comics reflect her own kid-common daily experiences. Young readers will easily relate to Kitchen's clever stories involving school frustrations (complete with bossy teachers), the difficulty of "simple" instructions and annoying siblings, all accompanied by her exaggerated, entertaining illustrative style.



The Odds Get Even

Author: Natale Ghent
Publisher: HarperTrophy Canada
Price: $14.99 (paperback)

Paranormal scares meet a trio's endeavour for vengeance in the latest tale from Natale Ghent. Using action and vibrant visual description, Ghent fashions a fun comeuppance narrative.



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Plenty of great gifts for less than $25

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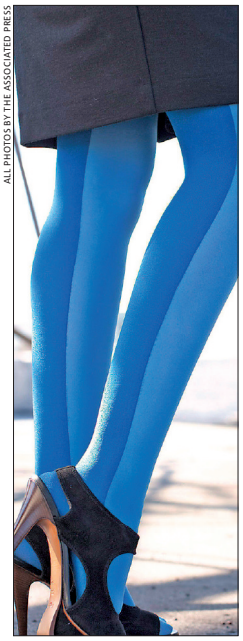

Limited-edition two-tone tights by Trina Turk.

This gift-giving season, $25 and under is the place to be. The economy is slowly recovering, yet consumers remain nervous, leading retailers to offer more items for $25 or less, experts say.

"A few years ago, there was no price barrier for most retailers and most consumers," said Kathy Deane, president of the New York-based retail consultancy Tobe. "Now consumers are looking for value. This is the year of $25-and-under gifts."

In the past, stores and malls focused on presents less than $50 or less than $100, said Marshal Cohen, chief industry analyst at market research firm NPD Group.

"This year, the $25 price point really has resonated," said Cohen. It's what most people will spend for stocking stuffers or gifts for people outside their immediate family, he said.

"That's the magic price point line, which retailers recognize is their target zone," he said. "Twenty-five dollars buys someone a gift that says, 'I thought about you.'"

Here's a look at some gifts that cost no more than $25:

FOR HER

You can find a sweater for $25, but there are also many trendy and stylish accessories.

Try leggings, which are fashionable this fall and fit into spring's skinny-leg silhouette. You can find cotton leggings in black, brown, navy, grey and purple, as well as argyle and two-tone patterns. "Leggings are the hottest-selling thing right now. Everyone is obsessed with leggings," says Alison Hessert, a spokeswoman for HUE.

For those who like to pull on their Wellies (non-insulated tall rubber boots) on a cold slushy day or for gardening, how about fleece boot liners? They also can be worn around the house as slouchy slippers.

Cosmetic bags, which often get grimy and need to be replaced, make a great gift. Some manufacturers make a good-looking makeup bag that doubles as a clutch in stylish patterns and colours.

Costume jewelry, such as a big faux cocktail ring, is great for a fashionable friend. "There's no question that they would be fake, but they're lots of fun," says Linda Lee, group vice-president of Macy's By Appointment.

The Snake Charmer Clutch by Trina.

Shoppers will be looking for gifts that are fashionable and interesting, such as statement necklaces, bangles and leather wrist bands, Deane said.

For a wine lover, bottle stoppers can be had for under $25. Look for a faceted diamond stopper or others in animal prints like zebra and giraffe. Coasters are great for those who entertain often.

For women you know well who don't always carry a purse — for instance, when they are jogging — there's the Racktrap, a credit-card-size pocket that goes into the bra to hold essentials. From theracktrap.com, there's a single gold one, or there's the "fashion four-pack" of white lace, black lace, nude lace and a sweatproof blue sport version.

A Facet crystal diamond bottle stopper.

The Bra Barrette (brabarrette.com) adds some jewelled flair to the back of spaghetti tops and dresses, swimsuits or bras.

FOR HIM

For the guys, there's the ultra-traditional gift of socks and PJs, everyday items that many of our special guys don't go out and buy for themselves. Argyle socks are in or look for other traditional styles like pinstripe, pin dot, and solid black, navy and brown.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

For the art lover
Andy Warhol Treasures: The Illustrated Story of Andy Warhol's Life and Works, $39.95 at Indigo and Chapters stores, or online at chapters.indigo.ca. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Holiday Shopping Guide

Gifts for the gamer in your life

KAREN FALCON
for Metro Canada

This season is stuffed full of gaming goodness and Metro has made it wicked-easy for you by narrowing the choices down to the best of the holiday offerings (all under $60). Just take this handy paper to the store and point to what you need. Clever, right?

A scene from Ratchet & Clank Future: A Crack in Time.

Uncharted 2: Among Thieves is one of the best-looking and most satisfying story-driven single player games of all time, our reviewer says.

Borderlands

Platform: PS3, Xbox 360
Rated: M

There's never been anything quite like it. It's a shooter and it's an RPG. I'm just gonna put this out there and say I don't think I played a better game this year. Did I mention it's got guns? A mind-boggling amount of inspiring guns? And vending machines where you can use your XP to buy health, shields, ammo, and more guns?

The single-player is fantastic but as you roam around the Borderlands searching for loot, think about convincing your friends to get this game too — it's uber-good alone but even better with four of you running and gunning, leveling up your distinct characters, and making giant Spider Ants go splat.

Call of Duty: Modern Warfare 2

Platform: PS3, PC, Xbox 360
Rated: M

You need to secure Burger Town and it's not going to be easy. The campaign is relentlessly frantic, short, and super-freakin'-hard on Veteran, but don't worry because the single-player story isn't where it's at. The online play that delivers all kinds of great new stuff and the new two-player co-op Special Ops missions are where it's at. With groundwrecking graphics, kill-streaks that unlock nukes, and lasting appeal that will take you to 2014, I wonder if this is why COD MW2 is busting all kinds of video game records — I'll bet it is.

Forza Motorsport 3

Platform: Xbox 360
Rated: E

I'm no driver. I'm just a chick who games a lot and the beauty of this game is that even if you're like me and have no clue what a gas pedal looks like, you can still win races and feel like a rock star. But that's only one of the beauties. There are lots! Like the endless decals and paint jobs you can create. Like racing around the world with people from around the world. Like turning off the racing line, the ABS, and the traction control, then stuffing your beautiful creation right into the corner on that hairpin turn.

Whatever your capacity for racing games, Forza 3 rocks. And another beauty — pretty much every car is for sale from the very beginning so you don't have to wait to play. Beautiful. Zombies vs. up to four co-op human players.

Left 4 Dead 2

Platform: Xbox 360, PC
Rated: M

The undead stumble around faster than you think the undead would, the Director (AI) is brilliant, and the game tailors itself to the player's abilities. So what's better than that, you ask? Well, for starters, there are five immediately accessible campaigns, an insanely fun multiplayer mode called Scavenge, a grenade launcher that teaches you the meaning of "friendly fire", and a frying pan. That's right — and it makes the most satisfying sound when it connects with zombie brains. Frying pans aren't just for eggs anymore — they're for hordes of swarming zombies.

Ratchet & Clank Future: A Crack in Time

Platform: PS3
Rated: E

Your favourite Lombax is at it again and this time he's packin' a customizable supercool, uber-inventive arsenal.

With a mind-boggling amount of stuff to upgrade, fun puzzles, and fantastic Clank sections, this last instalment of the Future series isn't one fans or newcomers should miss.

It's a perfect Ratchet game with stupendous guns, tonnes of nuts and bolts flying all over your screen, a brilliant control scheme, and a magnificent pair of hoverboots. Oh, and a Chimp-o-Matic — because everybody needs a gun that turns enemies into monkeys!

Uncharted 2: Among Thieves

Platform: PS3
Rated: T

I've decided that chuckin' propane tanks at enemies and then shooting 'em to make big fat destructive fireballs is one of the best things to do in videogame land. Kids, do not try this at home unless you're playing your PS3 and playing one of the best-looking and most satisfying, story-driven single-player games of all time.

It's Nathan Drake meets Lara Croft meets Indiana Jones meets Awesome in Uncharted 2. And wait for it: There's more awesome — there's multiplayer too! If you're going to gift it, throw in some frozen dinners and a microwave, because your recipient won't have time to cook for a while. Trust me. I know things.

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Girlie gift
These colourful Stylize Kids Barrettes are perfect stocking stuffers for the young fashionista. Prices vary. Available at Shoppers Drug Mart, shoppersdrugmart.ca. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Holiday Shopping Guide

Naughty & nice

Fuchsia Babydoll with matching panty, $29.50 at La Senza. For more, go to lasenza.com.

Faux Fur Neck Collar, $185, at Banana Republic. For more, go to bananarepublic.ca.

Graphic Print Compact Mirrors, $5 each, at Old Navy. For more, go to oldnavy.ca.

Man of Gingerbread mug, $9.95 at Hallmark. For more, go to hallmark.ca.

Bath Time Favourites, $42.95. For more, go to lush.ca or call 1-866-644-5874.

Tweety Body Powder by Aquolina, $32 at Sephora. For more, call 1-877-737-4672.

Mrs. Claus Apron, $34.95 at Pier 1 Imports. One size. For more, go to pier1.ca.

Malibu Cuff, $36, by Foxy Originals. For more, go to foxyoriginals.com.

Harajuku Lovers Snow Bunnies Travel Case (top), $69, and **Harajuku Lovers Snow Angels Brush Case,** $30, at Sephora. For more, call 1-877-737-4672.

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Kanata Centrum Walk

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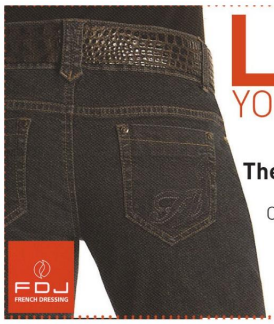
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Medicine for Aminata

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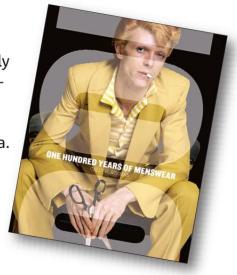
Hostess gift
The Festive Stars Oil Burner, $20, creates an ambient glow. Fragrance oils include Mulled Berries, Mandarin Giner and Vanilla Spice. Available at the Body Shop, bodyshop.ca. METRO NEWS SERVICES

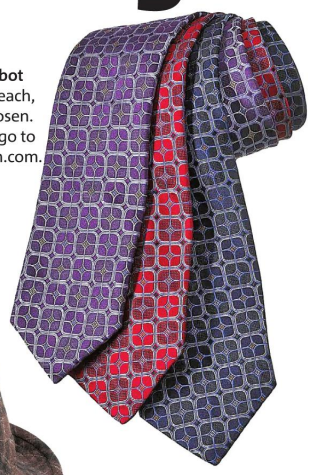
Holiday Shopping Guide

His favourite things...

One Hundred Years of Menswear by Cally Blackman, $50, at Indigo and Chapters stores. For more, go to chapters.indigo.ca.



Robert Talbot ties, $150 each, at Harry Rosen. For more, go to harryrosen.com.



Plaid fedora, $16.99, at Winners. For more, go to winners.ca or call 1-877-946-6877.

Signature cufflinks, $105, at Swarovski. For more, go to swarovski.com.

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Alan Paine cashmere sweater, $498, at Harry Rosen. For more, go to harryrosen.com.

Distinction Boxed Shirt and Tie Set, $79.99, at Sears. For more, go to sears.ca.

Cashmere-Blend Argyle Sweater, $39.99, at Winners. For more, go to winners.ca or call 1-877-946-6877.

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For the fashion-lover
Valentino: A Grand Italian Epic by Suzy Menkes pays homage to Valentino's illustrious career with images from his archives. Available for $40 at Indigo and Chapters stores or at chapters.indigo.ca. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Tips on holiday tipping

This holiday season, a leaner budget might clarify which people truly make a difference in your life. The challenge will be figuring out how much to tip them.

Determining what to give during the holidays, if anything, will likely be more complicated than in years past. Even if money is tight, it's hard not to feel guilty about skimping on the usual year-end bonus. You might also worry that not tipping will create an awkward tension, or result in shoddier service.

Still, you won't be alone if you scale back. About one-quarter of respondents to a recent Consumer Reports survey plan to tip less this holiday season than they did last year. Only six per cent plan to give more. If you're among those on a tighter budget, here's how you can save without appearing cheap.

KNOW THE CUSTOMS

Before you start doling out money, you might be curious about what others are giving. There are no hard-and-fast rules, but year-end tips are generally the cost of a single session. So if a haircut costs $40, that's how much you could give as a tip.

And holiday bonuses are generally reserved for people you've relied on for at least six months, said Mary Mitchell, author of The Complete Idiot's Guide to Business Etiquette. So don't feel obligated to tip a hairdresser you've only been to a few times.

For someone like a paper boy who doesn't charge per delivery, ask others what they're giving if you're at a total loss.

FOCUS ON KEY PEOPLE

One way to save is to focus on those you feel must be tipped.

Last holiday season, for instance, the downturn didn't affect how much housekeepers and teachers got. But fewer people tipped their barbers, garbage collectors, mail carriers and manicurists, according to Consumer Reports.

"The dollar amounts aren't changing so much as who is getting tipped," said Donato Vaccaro, who helps conduct the magazine's annual holiday tipping survey.

Since the economy hasn't improved, Vaccaro said more people will likely trim their lists this year.

If the strategy sits well with you, start by identifying those you feel absolutely should get tips. They'll likely be people you have frequent or intimate contact with, such as child- or pet-care providers.

GIVE NON-CASH GIFTS

If cash tips aren't in the budgetary stars, you can still give small gifts that don't cost a lot. Baked goods, jams and candles are the perennial crowd pleasers. But use your knowledge about the person if you feel you can't afford a tip or gift.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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JULLY BLACK
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Give her the gift of a home facial, with Santa's Rice Porridge Fresh Face Mask, $5.95. Available at Lush, 1-866-644-5874, lush.ca. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Holiday Shopping Guide

Furry family fun

Your dog and cat may not know it's the holidays, but admit it, most of those pet presents are really gifts for ourselves.

Brighten the dark winter days by watching your furry family have fun, and solve some common pet problems with these suggestions:

This Sasquatch pet bed is $99.95 at sasquatchpetbeds.com.

PET BEDS

You can get plenty of tasteful, upscale pet beds nowadays, styled to fit into your home's decor. Or you can say the heck with it and cheer up a room with a bright pink Sasquatch pet bed, "the original big foot for your little beast." If you're a fan of a certain famous colourful clog, you'll go for this one, and your pet will enjoy the cosy cave made by the shoe shape. ($99.95 at sasquatchpetbeds.com.)

If you prefer the recycled approach, the Molly Mutt pet duvet can be used to cover an old bed, or stuff it with old blankets, clothes, pillow, towels, even old stuffed toys to make a bed and keep more stuff out of landfills. (Different sizes, shapes and fabric patterns $20-$45, mollymutt.com.)

CHEW TOYS

If your dog is a tough chewer, check out Goughnuts. In stick and round doughnut shapes, these aren't cheap (around $20-$20 at goughnuts.com), but it's worth it, because they come with a lifetime guarantee. If your dog manages to chew down to the red inner safety indicator, you can return the toy to the manufacturer for a replacement.

FOR FUN

Get tired of throwing that fetch toy over and over? Use one that will make you laugh: The Humunga Stache from Moody Pet, that makes your dog look as if he has a huge handlebar moustache. ($12 at moodypet.com/humungastache.html.)

Or why not give your furry friend Max and Ruffy's organic dog treats? They come in three cool varieties: the Molasses Explosion 1919, a delicious-smelling pumpkin flavour, and "Wolf Peach and Herb," which tastes like pizza.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Scent-sational
These Slatkin winter sparkle figural candles ($19.50 for 5.5 oz., and $39.50 for 9 oz.) are at Bath & Body Works, bathandbodyworks.com. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Holiday Shopping Guide

Dog-gone it

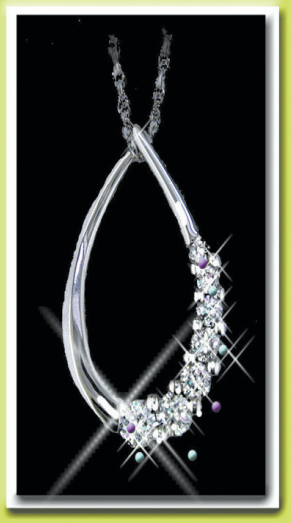
Dog Photo Frame, $6.99 at Hallmark. For more, go to hallmark.ca.

Quilted Dog Jacket, $7.50-$16.50, at Old Navy. For more, go to oldnavy.ca.

Portable Doggy Bag Dispenser, $7.99, at Winners. For store hours and locations, call 1-877-9466-877 or visit winners.ca.

Gourmet Dog Treats, $6.99, at HomeSense. Call 1-866-4663-707 or visit homesense.ca. Styles may vary by store.

LOOK!



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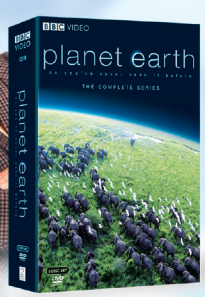

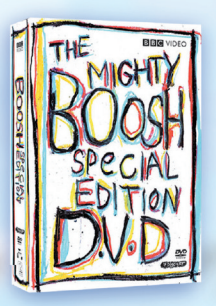

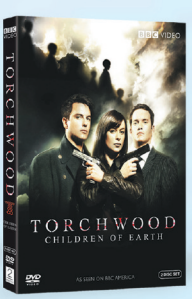

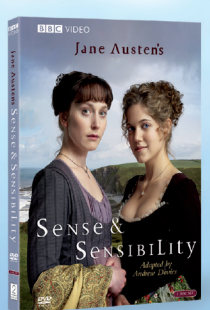

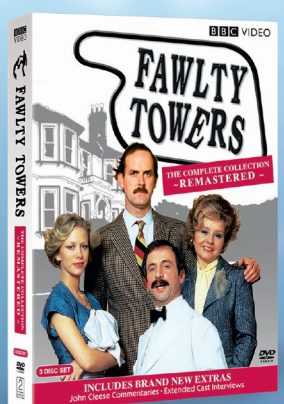

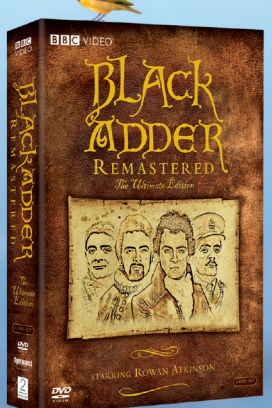

BLOODY BRILLIANT GIFTS

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Holiday Shopping Guide

Canadians opt for real trees, claim retailers

For some people it's the smell of cinnamon, peppermint or hot apple cider that reminds them of Christmas.

For others it's the smell of pine that fills the house when a real Christmas tree is set up next to a crackling fire.

This year Canadians may be getting nostalgic for that smell, as the country's largest organization representing wholesalers of real Christmas trees reports a 15-per-cent increase in orders from retailers this season over last.

"I think it's because people don't plan to go away because of the recession. They plan to stay at home and have a nice family Christmas," said Lewis Downey, executive director of the Canadian Christmas Tree Growers Association.

Downey's organization represents approximately 1,500 wholesalers across the country. Wholesalers sell both potted and cut trees.

"Real trees smell good — a real turkey beats canned turkey," said Downey.

According to Statistics Canada, revenues from Christmas tree sales rose in 2008 — returning to a level last seen in 2004. Others in the Christmas tree industry say the 2009 season is on track to continue the upward trend.

THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE PHOTO

Sales of real Christmas trees are rising this year, say tree retailers and wholesalers.

"People aren't going to Florida, they're staying at home — it's a nesting thing and we've seen it before in economies like this one," said Doug Drysdale, owner of Drysdale Farms near Toronto.

His farm has been in business since 1945 and operates the largest cut-and-choose farm in the province.

"As trends go we're anticipating about a 10-percent increase in business over last year," said Drysdale. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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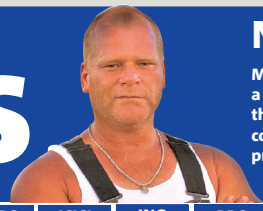
Metro Homes



New mag

Mike Holmes, who launched a home renovation magazine this week will be signing copies of the debut issue and promoting it across Canada.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

EDITOR: DOUGLAS.DUNLOP@METRONEWS.CA

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Thrilling **theatre, cozy comfort**

EMMA YARDLEY
for Metro Canada

A movie theatre may have a booming sound system and a screen the size of a house but sometimes the ease of watching a film in the comfort of your own living room wins out.

"The key to achieving a true theatre experience at home is choosing the right entertainment system for the size of your space, your level of technology know-how, and the everyday needs of your family," says Barry Murray, director or marketing at Panasonic Canada.

He suggests looking for a system with surround-sound, true-to-life colour and HD capabilities.

"Also, think about whether the system will be used for gaming or music — there are many products available today that offer a variety of functions, like networking capabilities and iPod compatibility."

With the right tools not only can you recreate the movie theatre experience but make it even better; at home you can press pause and go to the kitchen to refill the chip bowl.

This ceramic popcorn bowl is reminiscent of those sold in theatres during the golden age of cinema. Williams-Sonoma, $59.95, williams-sonoma.ca.

Pop to it! It's easy to use, easy to clean and even easier to go back for a second bowl. Toastess Cinema Popper, $59.99, Sears, sears.ca.

Snuggle down for an evening with your significant other, a selection of snacks and your favourite Hollywood stars. Nest Chair, starting at $1127, Urban Barn, urbanbarn.com.

Remove the middle shelf from this bonded-leather DVD storage unit and use the space to hang a small flat screen TV. Pier 1 Imports, $749.95, pier1.com.

Keep everyone happy with the DVD selection - one for the kids, one for the girls and one for the guys. Julie and Julia, $34.90, HMV and Best Buy; Star Trek, $23.99; UP!, $23.99; both at Zellers.

The Popcorn Lovers Gift Set is the perfect present for any movie-mad friend. Williams-Sonoma, $38, williams-sonoma.ca.

Homes in brief

RESALE PRICES Canadian home resale prices rose for a fifth straight month in September on gains in five of six major metropolitan markets surveyed, according to a report on Wednesday. Vancouver, where prices were up 2.1 per cent, had the biggest monthly rise, followed by Toronto, up 1.5 per cent. Calgary posted a 0.9 percent gain, while Halifax rose 1.7 per cent. Montreal was the only metropolitan area that reported a decline in the month, down 0.2 per cent, although the report said the fall was "not due to a deterioration of market conditions," but did not list the reason.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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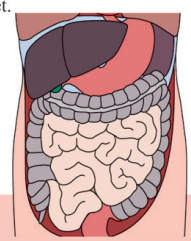

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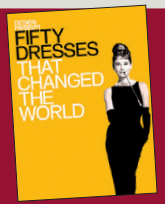
Theallet wins fashion award

Sophie Theallet, a Frenchwoman-turned-New-Yorker. has won the prestigious CFDA/Vogue Fashion Fund award, which supports emerging designers. The prize includes $200,000 US and a year's worth of mentoring. KENYA HUNT/METRO WORLD NEWS

Style



Dressed for impact

When it comes to cultural importance, there are 50 dresses that hold iconic status, according to London's Design Museum. In its latest release, Fifty Dresses That Changed the World(Conran), the museum takes readers on a literary tour of beautiful designs and the famous women who wore them, including Jackie Kennedy, Twiggy, Cher and Princess Diana. The book is available at Chapters and Indigo stores across Canada for $26. METRO NEWS SERVICES

EDITOR: ANN-MARIE.COLACINO@METRONEWS.CA

Fashion's sweeter side

Ralph Lauren's daughter brings Dylan's Candy Bar to Holt's

JANINE FALCON
for Metro Canada

DERYCK LEWIS

What do former U.S. president Bill Clinton, A-Rod and Janet Jackson have in common?

An appreciation for sweet treats from Dylan's Candy Bar, a New York City mecca of jellybeans, sour gums, chocolates, toffee, gummy bears, licorice, whirly pops and related apparel, accessories and spa products.

A selection of the most popular offerings is now also available at Holt Renfrew in Canada. "Everyone likes candy," says founder Dylan Lauren.

The daughter of iconic American fashion designer Ralph Lauren, Lauren says her own eye for design drew her to pop art, graphic design and packaging. She calls candy her passion, kickstarted by a Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory viewing when she was five.

And even before the launch of Dylan's Candy Bar, candy had already become part of her professional life during a stretch with her own event-planning company. "Interestingly, I always used candy as decorative accents," she told Metro.

Now her mission is to "elevate candy so it's not just for self-consumption," she says. "Good quality candy makes great gifts." It's also easy to customize for corporate clients; Dylan's Candy Bar was a sweet part of the Barbie-turns-50 celebrations earlier this year.

In-demand items include brightly coloured whirly pops, candied popcorn, super-sized chocolate bars and candy time capsules featuring popular era-specific sweets, such as candy necklaces, gobstoppers, Pop Rocks and Wonka Bars from the '70s; and Bubble Tape, Bubble Gum Cigarettes, Nerds and Big League Chew from the '80s. "Nostalgia's a huge thing right now, especially during the recession," Lauren notes.

While a variety of Dylan's Candy Bar offerings are marketplace favourites such as Jolly Ranchers, Starbursts, Hot Tamales and Reese's Peanut Butter Cups, many are unique to the brand.

"We work with our suppliers to put our own twist on things," says Lauren, offering her Everything But the Kitchen Sink as an example. "The original had fewer components. Ours has seven — pretzels, popcorn, cashews, toffee, peanuts, graham crackers and marshmallows."

Dylan Lauren, founder of Dylan's Candy Bar

"Nostalgia's a huge thing right now, especially during the recession."
Dylan Lauren

Dylan's Candy Bar Birthday Cake Batter Soda Pop Shower Gel, $16.

Below, Coconut Bon-Bon Body Smoothie Lotion, $16.

Left, Chocolate Cupcake Candy Butter Cream, $22.

Above, Dylan's Candy Bar two-pound Milk Chocolate Bar, $36. Right, Candyland Gift Basket, $170.

Rihanna booked for New Year's Eve
Rihanna will earn $500,000 US to perform at a New Year's Eve party. She has been asked to sing at the Emirates Palace Hotel in Abu Dhabi to help revellers see in 2010 in what will be her first performance in the Middle East. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Entertainment

Purple gain
While she is said to have scoffed at the idea of posing for Playboy, Lindsay Lohan is reportedly ready to get provocative for a photo spread in France's Purple magazine.
LIFE & STYLE WEEKLY

EDITOR: DEAN.LISK@METRONEWS.CA

⊕⊕⊕⊕⊕ A CLASSIC; ⊕⊕⊕⊕ EXCELLENT; ⊕⊕⊕ GOOD; ⊕⊕ FAIR; ⊕ POOR

Rihanna makes R-rated return

Susan Boyle, Adam Lambert and Shakira also release new music this week

Rihanna

Album: Rated R
Label: Def Jam/Universal
Rating: ⊕⊕⊕½

THERE'S NOTHING LIKE relationship trauma to get the creative juices flowing. On Rihanna's fourth record the Barbados-born starlet turns her terrible experiences with Chris Brown into a fiery and moving disc. While there's nothing explicitly referencing Brown's brutal attack, lines like "I thought I saw your potential, guess that's what made me dumb," on Stupid in Love does give listeners a glimpse into Rihanna's complex life. Musically, most of the tunes are stellar — they're haunting, dark and befitting of the album's name. There's nothing quite as catchy as Umbrella, but this is still a repeat-worthy record.

Bryan Borzykowski/for Metro Canada

Adam Lambert

Album: For Your Entertainment
Label: RCA/Sony
Rating: ⊕⊕⊕½

ADAM LAMBERT IS an Idol with staying power. And every time he gets kicked off a TV show for being provocative, just adds to his attraction. (Didn't they try that in the '50s with Elvis?). He's got it all, maybe a little bit too much. But the talent is unmistakably there, whether he's performing vocal acrobatics a la Freddy Mercury (opening track Music Again) or crooning out heartfelt love aches (Broken Open). The theatrical chameleon who mesmerized American Idol viewers continues to try on new clothes and his fans will happily take in the fashion show. Lambert's debut album suffers at times from the heavy hand of Idol production techniques. It will be interesting to see what he has in store for us with his next.

Graham Rockingham/for Metro Canada

Susan Boyle

Album: I Dreamed a Dream
Label: Columbia/Sony
Rating: ⊕⊕⊕

JUST THE THOUGHT of Susan Boyle covering Wild Horses, the Rolling Stones' classic country raunch ballad, should be enough to send music fans running for manure shovels. But sometimes it's best to leave preconceptions at the stable door. Boyle somehow pulls off the impossible. There is a wonderfully unique lilt to her English schoolgirl voice that drags the song's full five minutes. Ditto with her Streisand-like take on the great American standard, Cry Me a River. Yet, one has to wonder if the world really needs more recorded versions of Amazing Grace, Silent Night, or ... gasp ... The Monkees' Daydream Believer.

Graham Rockingham/for Metro Canada

Rihanna has turned her experiences with Chris Brown into the fiery and moving new album Rated R.

Shakira

Album: She Wolf
Label: Epic Sony
Rating: ⊕⊕⊕

YOU CAN APPROACH this album in one of two ways — 1) the latest instalment of trash from the jiggle queen of pop, or 2) an artfully crafted piece of camp to be taken with a nod and a wink rather than a snicker and a sneer. Let's say we give Shakira the benefit of the doubt and go with Door No. 2. There had to be a comic hand at work crafting lyrics like "I'm starting to feel just a little abused, like a coffee machine in an office." Shakira even injects some klezmer clarinet into the sex-starved chorus of Long Time. And could anything be more hilarious than Shakira asking "where are all the men in this town?" But seriously, folks, Shakira shows some decent vocal chops here, especially when the Auto-Tune gets (apparently) turned off on tracks like Gypsy and Did It Again.

Graham Rockingham/for Metro Canada

Lady Gaga

Album: The Fame Monster
Label: Interscope/Universal
Rating: ⊕⊕⊕

WITH HER FLAMBOYANT behaviour and over-the-top costumes, it's easy to forget that it was Lady Gaga songs that catapulted her into the spotlight. Her new eight-song EP — which is also packaged with her debut as a deluxe version — pushes her songwriting skills (and those of her songwriters) even further, tackling Shakira-like Latin on Alejandro and jangly soul on Teeth. She still employs epic electro and wild lyrics, but it's clear that Gaga doesn't want to be a one-album wonder.

Bryan Borzykowski/for Metro Canada

Album Reviews

music@metronews.ca

Jully Black

Album: The Black Book
Label: Universal
Rating: ⊕⊕½

THERE'S ONE INDISPUTABLE fact about Toronto's Jully Black: She may have the best pipes in the country. Unfortunately, she's never quite found out how to turn her talent into worldwide success. Her latest won't achieve that goal — it's a misguided attempt at broadening her fan base by tackling run-of-the-mill rock. Recalculate is her biggest miss — it's a driving guitar-soaked track that could be sung by any popular singer. The new direction dilutes her voice. It's the R&B tunes on this record that standout, because they show off her range. Let's hope her rock experiment ends soon.

Bryan Borzykowski/for Metro Canada

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BLOUIN & BLOUIN ASSOC.
BONITA COLLECTION
BROWN'S CLEANERS
CANADIAN SHOE REPAIR
CAPITAL CITY DANCE STUDIO
CAPITAL OPTICAL
CARDUCCI'S SHOES & LEATHER
COZZY COVERINGS
DRIVERS & VECHICLE LICENSING BUREAU
FAMILY PHYSIOTHERAPY
FASHION NAILS
FINE EUROPEAN TAILORING
FRAMEWAVE
GRAYBRIDGE MALKAN
JOANNE'S FASHIONS
LA GRAND PITA
LEISHMAN BOOKS
L'IMAGE HAIR STUDIO
LOTTA LOTTO
MARIANNE'S LINGERIE
MARY'S FASHIONS
MONKEY JOE'S
NATURAL FOOD PANTRY
NETTLETON'S JEWELLERY
OBENTO ASIAN CUISINE
PET VALUE
POST OFFICE (in SHOPPERS)
REEBOK OUTLET
REITMAN'S
ROCKIN' JOHNNY'S DINER
ROYAL BANK
SATCHELS
SECOND CUP
SHOPPERS DRUG MART
SHOPPER HOME HEALTH CARE
SUBWAY
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TD CANADA TRUST
TRAVAC TRAVEL
TREATS
TRILLIUM DENTAL CENTRE
WESTGATE BARBER SHOP
WESTGATE NEWS
WINE RACK

Hoffman skips Fockers reunion

Dustin Hoffman will be absent from the sequel to Meet the Fockers — he's refused to sign up for the latest installment of the comedy franchise. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Sting's spooky take on Christmas

Sting and his wife Trudie keep with tradition on Christmas Eve: They go to a local church, sing along to carols, then head back home to their English estate to open presents with their family.

It's a cheery scene one would expect during the holiday season. But that kind of celebratory mood is absent on his latest album, If On A Winter's Night.

Instead, the seasonal offering features the rocker's interpretations of traditional British songs, ranging from carols to lullabies, that sombrely mark the winter season — definitely not the kind of music for that tree-trimming party.

"I wanted to present something slightly different," explains a bearded Sting.

"There's a fault with a lot of Christmas songs; they are a little bit triumphal: 'Isn't life wonderful, God's in his heaven and I'm rich,"' laughs Sting. "They sort of forget a lot of people aren't."

If On A Winter's Night, which Sting will present in a Great Performances concert on PBS on U.S. Thanksgiving, doesn't forget. In a recent interview, Sting explained why he felt compelled to make the CD, being middle age and why he's not giving up on his rock roots.

Q Had you rejected doing a traditional Christmas album in the past?

A I don't think there's any need for me to do one of those kind of records. I think there are enough of them out there and my feeling toward the season is a little bit more ambiguous (laughs). So just to be truthful to my own sensibility, I need to acknowledge that the season is not all joy and light for a lot of people. It's tough — environmentally, emotionally, spiritually. So I wanted to achieve some sort of balance between that sense of traditional Christmas and being home and being warm and being cozy, and also the opposite of those things. A lot of people suffer.

Q When the leaves start to fall and the snow comes, what do you start to think about?

A At this particular time, preparing for the winter of one's life. I'm 58. I'm not in the winter of my life but I'm definitely preparing for it, so it reminds you of your mortality, the short span of years we have on the planet, what to do with that, how to be useful, how to be meaningful.

Q How does one prepare for that?

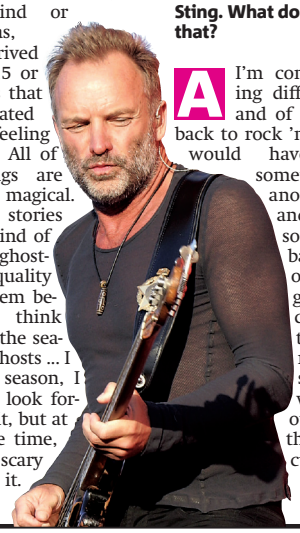
A I don't know yet (laughs). I think this kind of work for me, this kind of creative work, is my preparation. This is my realm. I did a lot of research for this record. I looked at songs from all different cultures and time periods and genre, anything that mentions snow, ice cold wind or Christmas, and arrived at like 15 or 16 songs that encapsulated my feeling about it. All of the songs are kind of magical. All the stories have a kind of spooky, ghostly quality about them because I think winter's the seasons of ghosts ... I like the season, I like it, I look forward to it, but at the same time, it has a scary aspect to it.

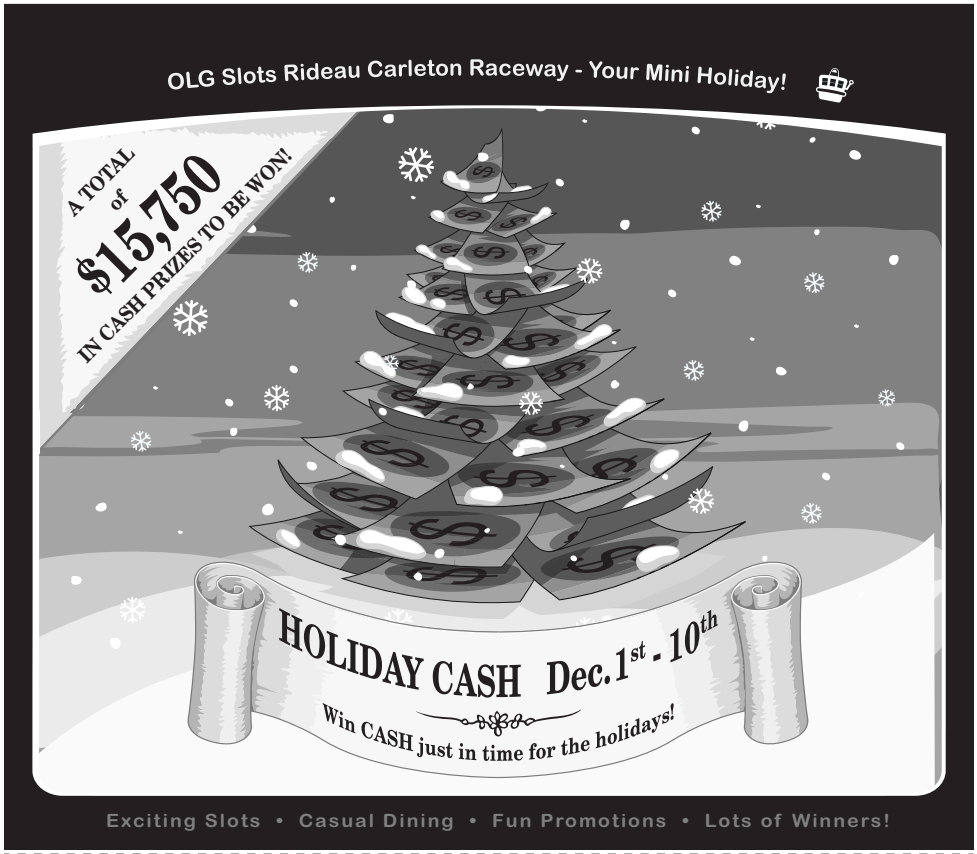
Q Some of these songs are centuries old. Did you consider doing new songs?

A That would have been nice but at the moment in my career, I seem to be interpreting material rather than writing it. I haven't stopped writing. It just seems your career goes through cycles where sometimes you're there to learn. I'm learning to interpret other people's work and immerse yourself in other people's work. It's a good thing to do.

Q There are always people who want to hear the "pop" Sting. What do you say to that?

A I'm constantly doing different stuff, and of course I go back to rock 'n' roll, but I would have learned something from another area and bring something back. I'm not one of these guys who can stay in the same rut. I constantly want to find out new things. I'm curious. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS





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metro

Dancing judge undergoes spinal surgery
Dancing With the Stars judge Carrie Ann Inaba was scheduled to have surgery yesterday morning in Los Angeles to relieve pressure and stiffness in her neck caused by spinal stenosis. PEOPLE.COM

Court grants Polanski bail

Pays up $4.5 million but must remain under house arrest

The Swiss Criminal Court granted director Roman Polanski bail on Wednesday, accepting US$4.5 million to allow him to remain under house arrest and monitored by an electronic bracelet at his chalet in the Swiss resort of Gstaad.

The Swiss Justice Ministry, which ordered him arrested on Sept. 26 as he arrived in Zurich to receive a lifetime achievement award at a film festival, said it still viewed him as a flight risk. But Polanski wasn't immediately released. He will stay in prison for up to 10 days while the Swiss government decides whether to appeal.

The verdict does not affect the Swiss Justice Ministry's ongoing assessment of whether Polanski should be extradited to the United States for having sex in 1977 with a 13-year-old girl, after plying her with champagne and a Quaalude pill at a modelling shoot.

He was initially indicted on six felony counts, including rape by use of drugs, child molesting and sodomy. Polanski pleaded guilty to the lesser charge of unlawful sexual intercourse. In exchange, the judge agreed to drop the remaining charges and sentence him to prison for a 90-day psychiatric evaluation.

The evaluator released Polanski after 42 days, but the judge said he would send him back to serve out the 90 days. Polanski then fled the country on Feb. 1, 1978, the day he was to be sentenced and has lived in France since.

"The 76-year-old appellant is married and the father of two minors," the court said, as it considered Polanski's offer of a cash bail secured by his apartment in Paris. "It can be assumed that as a responsible father he will, especially in view of his advanced age, attach greater importance to the financial security of his family."

"We will decide quickly on whether to order his release or file an appeal with the Federal Tribunal," Justice Ministry spokesman Folco Galli said. Authorities had 10 days to refer the matter to the tribunal, Switzerland's highest court, but Galli said they would make their decision before that. The Federal Tribunal said it had yet to receive an appeal. The decision came as a surprise. Swiss legal experts had said earlier that Polanski's chances of bail were slim.

Polanski claims the judge and prosecutors in his initial trial acted improperly. A California appeals court will listen to oral arguments from his attorneys next month. They will be urging the court to order a lower court to decide whether to dismiss charges against the fugitive director, whether he is present or not.

A decision on extraditing Polanski to Los Angeles is still pending, and would also be subject to appeals.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Director Roman Polanski will be monitored by an electronic bracelet while under house arrest in at his Swiss chalet.

Entertainment in brief

COMEBACK Julie Andrews will return to the British stage at London's 02 Arena on May 8, 30 years after her last appearance. "To perform once again in my homeland will be a wonderful moment," she said.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Top 5 Chiropractors

Beechwood Village Chiropractic
"Makes me feel like a new person!"

Dr. Paul Groulx
"When I have pain, I go in for a visit and come out feeling much better."

Dr. William Robinson
"Dr. Robinson has helped me get from extreme daily neck and knee pain to a pain-free active lifestyle."

Britannia Chiropractic Clinic
"I have always received excellent care from this team."

Dr. Vikas Dhawan
"Dr. Vik, as he is known to his patients, has a passion for life and wellness."

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Osmond takes home trophy

TELEVISION Donny Osmond was declared the new champion of Dancing With Stars on Tuesday, taking home the show's mirror ball trophy in the season finale of the program.

Osmond

The former teen pop star of the singing Osmond family said the show has been a highlight in a career of ups and downs. "I did it!" he exclaimed, then promptly rushed to the audience, plucked out his wife, Debbie, and carried her across the stage. Helping push Osmond over the top was the tango he performed with his professional dancing partner, Kym Johnson. Judge Carrie Ann Inaba hailed it as "artistry in motion."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Kenya's Style

Kenya Hunt

Exclusively at metronews.ca/globalstyle

OT	Vu	SC	C		7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
primetime 11/26/09	265	353	2	TVO	Super Structures (N)		The Agenda With Steve Paikin		Occupation (Part 3 of 3) (N)		Masterworks (N)		Agenda-Paikin
	211	331	3	GTV	ET Canada	Entertainment	Survivor: Samoa (N)		The Office "Niagara"		90210 (HDTV)		News Final
	-	-	5	SRC	Virginie (SC)	Infoman (SC)	Les Années Derome (N) (SC)		3600 secondes d'extase (SC)		Le Téléjournal Nouvelles. (SC)		La Zone (SC)
	209	342	6	CHRO	Degrassi: TNG	TMZ (N)	*Cinderella Man* ★★★ (2005, Biography) Russell Crowe, Renée Zellweger, Paul Giamatti.						Comedy Now
	196	311	7	CTV	etalk	Access H.	The Vampire Diaries		CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn.		The Mentalist (HDTV)		CTV News
	208	303	8	CBC	Wheel-Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	Carbon Hunters (N)		The Border "Dark Ride"		CBC News: The National		The Hour
	-	360	9	NBC	Wheel-Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	The Office "Niagara"		NBC's People of the Year (N)		The Jay Leno Show (N)		News
	117	713	10	TVA	La Fièvre de la danse (SC)		Dieu Merci (HDTV) (N) (SC)		Le Gentleman (N) (SC)		TVA nouvelles	(10:45) Denis Lévesque	
	-	-	11	QS	Taxi payant (N)	Rire et délire	Fringe "The No-Brainer" (SC)		Catherine (SC)	Bob Gratton	Le Mur (SC)	L'Attaque à 5 (N)	
	137	763	12	TFO	Panorama		Météo	Volt "Sport"	*Les Lumières de la ville* ★★★★ (1931)			*Le Pèlerin*	Qhapaq Nan:
	-	362	13	CBS	NFL Football	Judge-Brown	Survivor: Samoa (N)		CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn.		The Mentalist (HDTV)		Two/Half Men
	216	395	14	OMN2	Family Guy	The Office	Omni News: S. Asian Edition		Omni News: Cantonese Edition		Two/Half Men	King	TBA
	214	344	15	CITY	NFL Football	TBA	30 Rock	30 Rock	Curb-Enthsm	Curb-Enthsm	The Jay Leno Show (N)		News
	115	343	16	CFMT	Two/Half Men	The Simpsons	Omni News: Italian Edition (N)		Vivere V	Omni News:	The Simpsons	King of the Hill	Metropia
	218	345	18	CHCH	*The Animal* ★ (2001, Comedy) Rob Schneider.				*National Lampoon's Van Wilder* ★★ (2002, Comedy)				News at 11 (N)
	-	361	20	ABC	Action News	Entertainment	A Charlie Brown Thanksgiving		Beyoncé ... I Am Yours		Paul McCartney-New York City		News
	512	396	24	CPAC	La Période de questions (SC)		Heure polit.	L'Heure politique (SC)				Revue	Période-quest.
	651	355	25	CTS	Little House on the Prairie		Dr. Quinn, Medicine Woman		100 Huntley Street		Life Today	This Is Day	John Hagee
	-	365	36	FOX	TMZ (N)	Seinfeld	*Night at the Museum* ★★ (2006, Comedy) Ben Stiller.				FOX 2 News	Fox 2 Special:	Special
	-	-	64	PBS	Business Rpt.	Whiz Quiz	Manor Born	Time Goes By	Murdoch Mysteries		Poirot		Charlie Rose
	205	312	104	CTV	etalk	Access H.	The Vampire Diaries		CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn.		The Mentalist (HDTV)		CTV News
news	502	390	26	NW	Connect Today's biggest stories. (N)				CBC News: The National		The Nature of Things		National
	500	500	33	CNN	CNN Tonight (N)		Larry King Live (N)		CNN Heroes: An All-Star Tribute (N)				Larry King Live
sports	406	417	27	net	Over the Bolts	Sportsnet Con.	NFL Football New York Giants at Denver Broncos. (HDTV) From INVESCO Field at Mile High in Denver. (Live)						
	126	730	28	RDI	24 Heures en 60 minutes		Grands reportages (SC)		Le Téléjournal (SC)		RDI économie	Le National	Le Téléjournal
	400	280	30	TSN	That's Hockey!	NHL Hockey Columbus Blue Jackets at Ottawa Senators. (HDTV) (Live)					SportsCentre (HDTV) (Live)		
	410	403	52	SCR	Score on NFL	College Football Texas at Texas A&M. (Live)							Score Now
cable variety	411	457	56	OLN	Ghost Hunters International		Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter	Survivorman		Ghost Hunters International		Bounty Hunter
	417	406	59	SC	Bullrun (HDTV)		Dangerous Drives (N)		Dangerous Drives (HDTV) (N)		Dangerous Drives (HDTV) (N)		Drives
family	554	544	48	TEL	Stoked	Total Drama	Total Drama	6TEEN	Futurama	King of the Hill	*Battlefield Earth* ★ (2000, Science Fiction)		
	557	540	51	FAM	Sonny Chance	Zack & Cody	Overruled!	Han. Montana	Wizards-Place	Latest Buzz	Ned's School	Cory in House	That's-Raven
	551	542	65	YTV	Drake & Josh	To Be Indie	Malcolm-Mid.	Hates Chris	8 Simple Rules	What I Like	Family Biz	Prank Patrol	Adrenaline Proj
	570	580	29	MM	The Daily Fix		Ranked!		Elvis: Viva Las Vegas				mmtop10.ca
	615	520	31	A&E	The First 48 (HDTV)		The First 48		The First 48 (HDTV)		The First 48 (HDTV)		Crime 360
	628	584	32	SPKE	Band-Brothers	Band of Brothers "The Last Patrol"			TNA Wrestling (HDTV) (N)				MANswers
	521	560	34	TLC	Cake Boss	Cake Boss	Cake Boss	Cake Boss	Cake Boss	Cake Boss	Cake Boss	Cake Boss	Cake Boss
	145	761	35	TV5	La Route de Simbad		Club social		Envoyé spécial			Cité guide	TV5 Le Journal
	616	521	39	SHO	The Outer Limits		Da Vinci's City Hall		Found.	Paradise Falls	Saving Grace (HDTV) (N)		NCIS
	620	523	40	BVO	Storytellers	PhotoXplorers	Bathroom Divas-Opera Star		*Eighteen* (2004, Drama) Brendan Fletcher. (DVS)				Law & Order
	520	505	42	DIS	Daily Planet (N)		Life "Birds" (N)		Life "Insects" (N)		MythBusters		Daily Planet
	575	583	43	CMT	Funniest Home Videos		Reba	Reba	According-Jim	According-Jim	Home Improve.	Home Improve.	Unstable
	601	562	45	SLC	Rich Bride, Poor Bride		X-Weighted "Monaca"		X-Weighted		X-Weighted "Diane"		ET Canada
	625	548	46	COM	Air Farce	22 Minutes	Corner Gas	Name Is Earl	The Simpsons	South Park	Hot Box	Jon Dore Show	Daily Show
	294	529	47	TBS	Family Guy	Family Guy	House-Payne	House-Payne	Law & Order: SVU		*Daddy's Little Girls* ★★ (2007, Romance)		
	600	564	49	H&G	House Hunters	Property Virgin	Holmes Inspection		Renovation	Disaster DIY	House Hunters	House Hunters	Holmes
	627	528	50	SPC	Stargate Atlantis	(DVS)	Star Trek: Voyager		Primeval		Eureka (N)		InnerSpace (N)
	581	566	53	MTV	The City	After	Super Sweet	Super Sweet	Real World-Road Rules		Gone Too Far		MTV Live
	618	524	54	TROP	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	The Outer Limits		ET Canada	TV Made, Do It	Family Guy	Seinfeld	Seinfeld
	522	506	55	HIS	Ice Road Truckers		Ancient Discoveries		Underworld Histories		Life After People		Disaster
	129	773	60	CD	Biographies (HDTV)		Victimes "Victimes de l'église"		Eaux troubles du crime (HDTV)		Un tueur si proche (HDTV)		Vidéo
	261	394	61	V	Murder, She Wrote		On the Buses	'Allo, 'Allo!	Darwin's Lost Paradise (N)		Darwin's Lost Paradise (N)		God Bless
	602	567	62	W	Old Christine	Friends	Friends	Grocery Bag	Confidential	Confidential	Divine Design	Divine Design	Don't Move
	269	350	70	APTN	Wapos Bay	By the Rapids	Over the Bolts	Moose TV	*The Legend of Johnny Lingo* ★★ (2003, Adventure)				Fish Out of
	621	527	71	TLK	Look-A-Like	TMZ	The Ellen DeGeneres Show		The View (HDTV)		The Dr. Oz Show (HDTV)		TMZ
	603	561	95	FN	Ricardo	Road Grill	Restaurant Makeover		Heston's Feasts (N)		Ace of Cakes	Ace of Cakes	Family

critics'corner

The Border
Darn, if only those pesky serial killers would stay in their own countries. In this new episode, the ICS works to prevent Maggie's (Catherine Disher) daughter from becoming the latest victim of a killer who works both sides of the border. James McGowan, Graham Abbey and Jonas Chernick also star in "Dark Ride." 9 PM on 8 CBC

NFL Football
Today's annual Thanksgiving Day game in Detroit between the Lions and the Green Bay Packers commences seven hours of NFL football and no doubt provides welcome respite for many from food, parades and family interaction. Aaron Rodgers and the Pack hope to improve their chances of landing a playoff berth against one of the worst teams in the game in Matthew Stafford and the Lions. After this, the Cowboys and Oakland Raiders go at it down in Dallas on CBS. 12:30 PM on 15 CITY 36 FOX

Creating Christmas
Watch Chef Thomas Riding create Christmas in an Hour this Sunday at Mrs. McGarrigle's in Merrickville from 1 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. $55 per person. mustard.ca. SHARI GOODMAN/FOR METRO OTTAWA

Urban Foodie

●●●●● INSPIRED; ●●●● VERY GOOD; ●●● PALATABLE; ●● HO-HUM; ● NEVER AGAIN

Mystiko's Greek fare no longer secret

SHARI GOODMAN
OttawaUrbanFoodie@gmail.com

Mystiko
281 Kent St.
mystikogreekkitchen.com
(613) 233-3626

Signature Dish:
Moussaka ($14)
Rating: ●●●
Dinner & drinks for 2: $45

At Mystiko you'll find authentic Greek cuisine where recipe secrets have been whispered from grandfather to grandson.

From the appetizer menu, we enjoyed grilled octopus ($11), which was coaxed to tenderness by being marinated first and then lightly grilled. The calamari ($9) was deep-fried in a batter that had the lightness of tempura, taking away the richness usually associated with this appetizer. It was served with a vibrant, garlic-infused tzatziki.

There's good value for money here with many mains under the $20 dollar mark including the most well-known Greek dish, Moussaka ($14). Layers of meat and eggplant, with an overpowering nutmeg tone, was large and satisfying with a crunchy Greek salad on the side.

On the web

- Get recipes and more great food content at metronews.ca/recipes

Another large portioned main was the Kotopoullo Athena ($16), tender, stuffed with feta and spinach and ladled with a sauce that needed more oomph.

The dessert options include many popular Greek sweets. A fill-the-plate sized piece of Baklava ($5) promised belt-loosening. The Vanilla Kadaifi ($5) was my siren song: a layer of shredded wheat pastry, underneath toasted mixed nuts and a strong vanilla pudding layer, lightened with whipped cream and a sprinkle of almonds on top. Each bite promising sweetness, crunch and heaven.

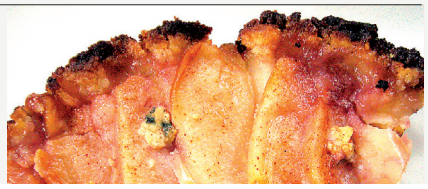
When you visit Mystiko, you can enjoy unpretentious, genuine Greek food, an all-Greek wine list, and long for the Mediterranean breeze. Opa.

SHARI GOODMAN/FOR METRO OTTAWA

Moussaka ($14)

Global Peasant blog online

- Travel along with Diane Thompson's culinary adventures in her Global Peasant blog.
- Check out metronews.ca/globalpeasant for a Thin Pear Tart recipe.



Dining out

FRASER CAFÉ
Enjoy brunch at Fraser Café Saturday and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Its menu includes homemade granola, yoghurt pancakes, eggs Benedict, and many other options. 7 Springfield Rd. (613) 749-1444

ZEN KITCHEN
ZenKitchen offers vegetarian and vegan fare. The owners are also the focus of a documentary called The Restaurant Adventures of Caroline and Dave, which will premiere Jan. 6 at 9 p.m. 634 Somerset St. W. (613) 233-6404

In brief

KNIVES Hone your knife skills with Derek Marcotte of Wusthof Knives tonight at Mrs. McGarrigl's in Merrickville from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. mustard.ca

DRINK Taste wine at a wine appreciation class hosted by the Savvy Company this Saturday in the Novotel Ottawa (33 Nicholas St.).

Jon Voight's Christmas wish list
Jon Voight admits that all he wants for Christmas is to meet his one-year-old twin grandchildren, Vivienne and Knox Jolie-Pitt, he tells OK! Magazine. "That will be my Christmas wish," he says. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Celebrity Buzz

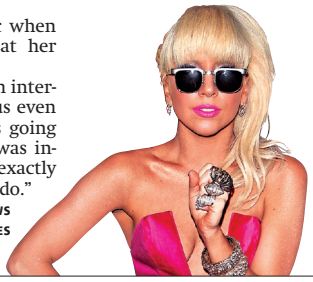
Gaga has 'no time' for drugs or men, says friend

TOO MANY BAD ROMANCES? Lady Gaga had stopped taking drugs and didn't have time for men by the time she was 20, her friend has revealed, as femalefirst.co.uk reports.

Despite her claims to a life of wild partying and casual sex, the singer's best pal DJ Lady Starlight claims she was solely focused on her music when she first met her at her 20th birthday party.

Starlight said in an interview: "It was obvious even then that Gaga was going to be famous. She was incredibly focused on exactly what she wanted to do."

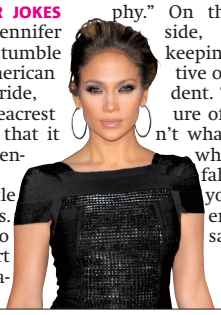
METRO NEWS SERVICES



J.Lo opens up about her infamous AMA tumble

NOW IT'S JUST HER JOKES FALLING FLAT Jennifer Lopez is taking her tumble onstage at the American Music Awards in stride, joking with Ryan Seacrest on his radio show that it was completely intentional.

"Did I trip a little bit?" she laughs. "Yeah, I meant to do that. That was part of the choreography." On the serious side, Lopez is keeping perspective on the accident. "the measure of things isn't what happens when you fall, it's how you recover," she says. METRO WORLD NEWS



Celebrity tweets

Kirstie Alley is sympathizing with the birds, Rania Al Abdullah has some Twilight content suggestions, and Ashton Kutcher is pondering the really big issues.

• @kirstiealley GOOD MORNING DECAPITATED TURKEYS...sad but true, this is NOT the season for our gobbler friends to be jolly.

• @QueenRania Finally watched New Moon (for my teenage kids' sake, of course). That poor girl, no 1 should hve limited choice between vampire and wolf! Next time they should throw mummies, harpies or ogers in the mix. A girl's gotta have choices!

• @aplusk thinking about growing the hair out again.

METRO WORLD NEWS

Demi's cover photo mystery deepens

CHEAPER THAN MORE SURGERY The scandal brewing over whether Demi Moore's photo on the cover of W was doctored has reached a new level. The blog Pop Culture Madness has uncovered evidence that they claim proves Moore's head was simply attached to the body of 26-year-old model Anja Rubik. Moore, who was vocal about the scandal before via her Twitter account, has yet to address the latest claims.

METRO WORLD NEWS

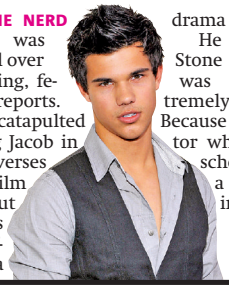
Twilight star says he was bullied at school

REVENGE OF THE NERD Taylor Lautner was bullied at school over his love for acting, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The star has catapulted to fame playing Jacob in the vampire verses werewolves film franchise, but he admits life was difficult as a drama nerd.

He tells Rolling Stone magazine, "I was never extremely confident. Because I was an actor when I was in school there was a little bullying going on.

METRO WORLD NEWS



Richie still laid up in bed, but strong enough to type

TWEET RX Although back from the hospital, Nicole Richie says she's still home after a bout with pneumonia. "Right now it's important for me to stay in bed and recover," Richie wrote on her blog.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

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Take Five

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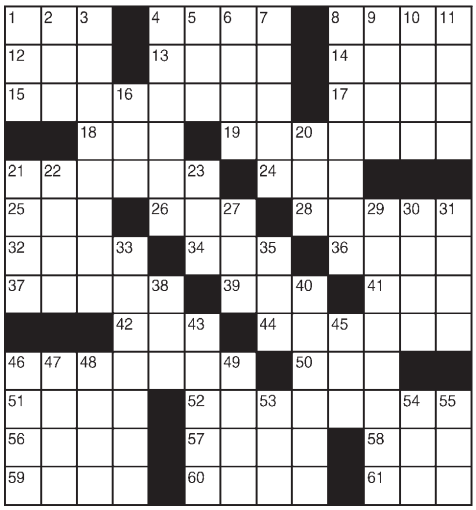


ACROSS

1 Pouch
4 Crooner Perry
8 Cribbage score-keepers
12 Berlin's "What'll ____?"
13 Paper quantity
14 Bound
15 Trade
17 ____ mater
18 Central
19 Israeli parliament
21 Toxic hydrocarbon
24 Perched
25 Toss in
26 Uncle, south of the border
28 Sounds from grandfather?
32 Cry
34 Saloon
36 Scoop holder
37 Twangy
39 Beam of light
41 Culpa preceder
42 Clampett patriarch
44 Cyclist's protection
46 A, C or E
50 Mermaid's realm
51 Grad
52 Shared
56 Actress Sorvino
57 Duel tool
58 Conk out
59 Nerd-pack contents
60 Stitched together
61 Mined-over matter

DOWN

1 Bracketed word
2 Commotion
3 Low chest of drawers
4 One way to pay
5 "___ the fields we go"
6 Big name in trucks
7 Portents
8 Barbie's make-up?
9 Morays, e.g.
10 Ready for action
11 Lovers' quarrel
16 Blend
20 Chow down
21 Sunrise
22 Notion
23 Pinch
27 "___ Town"
29 Shock trooper
30 Dandling site
31 Chair part
33 Nightwear
35 "Humbug!"
38 Moon vehicle
40 Sycophants
43 Chops into cubes
45 Romanian money
46 Temptress
47 Nastase of tennis
48 Swerve
49 "Unh-unh"
53 Kitten's comment
54 Balloon fill
55 Novelist Harper

Sudoku

For more/less challenging Sudoku puzzles, visit metronews.ca

HOW TO PLAY: Digits 1 through 9 will appear once in each zone – one zone is an outlined 3x3 grid within the larger puzzle grid. There are nine zones in the puzzle. Do not enter a digit into a box if it already appears elsewhere in the same zone, row across or column down the entire puzzle.

	7						6	
	4	8		2		5	9	
2			1		8			3
		7	8		2	6		
		1	5		4	3		
5			9		7			8
	6	9		3		2	5	
	1						4	

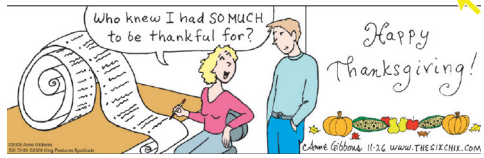
PREVIOUS DAY'S CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS:

B	R	O	■	A	L	B	A	■	B	A	T	H
L	A	P	■	B	O	O	T	■	I	L	I	A
O	V	A	■	S	P	O	O	N	B	I	L	L
C	E	L	L	O	■	■	M	A	L	■	■	■
■	■	■	O	R	C	A	■	P	E	S	T	O
S	N	O	W	B	A	L	L	■	S	O	A	R
A	I	M	■	S	N	O	O	D	■	M	I	A
S	L	I	M	■	T	A	C	O	B	E	L	L
S	E	T	A	E	■	D	O	U	R	■	■	■
■	■	■	L	E	A	■	■	G	A	V	E	L
P	A	P	A	L	B	U	L	L	■	E	W	E
O	P	E	D	■	I	K	E	A	■	T	E	A
D	E	W	Y	■	T	E	E	S	■	O	R	K

5	1	2	4	8	9	6	3	7
6	4	3	5	7	2	8	1	9
7	8	9	6	1	3	5	2	4
4	3	8	7	2	6	9	5	1
2	6	7	1	9	5	4	8	3
9	5	1	8	3	4	2	7	6
3	7	5	9	4	8	1	6	2
8	2	4	3	6	1	7	9	5
1	9	6	2	5	7	3	4	8

On the web

For more games and 60 additional daily cartoon strips, visit metronews.ca



Metro Recipe of the Day

CHRISTY PENGUILY

Tomato & Basil Salad

Submitted by Irene Leung, Port Dover, ON

INGREDIENTS:

5 tomatoes or a combination of cherry and regular tomatoes
10 tablespoons of chopped fresh basil
2 small red onions or shallots
1 cup of mini bocconcini cheese balls
4 tablespoons of good quality balsamic vinegar
7 tablespoons of extra virgin olive oil

METHOD:

1. Wash and dice tomatoes
2. Chop fresh herbs
3. Peel and dice onions
4. Combine vinegar, oil, and basil and toss to taste in a large non-reactive bowl
5. Add tomatoes, shallots, bocconcini cheese and toss to coat
6. Serve right away, or let the dish sit for about an hour in the fridge to marry the flavours

SERVES 2
PREP TIME: 10 MINUTES
COOK TIME: 0 MINUTES

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Horoscopes by Sally Brompton sallybrompton.com

For Sally's expanded daily and weekend horoscopes, visit metronews.ca

ARIES ♈
MARCH 21-APRIL 20
Someone you meet over the next 24 hours will inspire you creatively and maybe romantically too.

TAURUS ♉
APRIL 21-MAY 21
What someone tells you today might sound like good advice but the chances are they are thinking more about themselves than about you.

GEMINI ♊
MAY 22-JUNE 21
No matter how much you have planned ahead there will be disruptions today and you are likely to get annoyed with people who let you down.

CANCER ♋
JUNE 22-JULY 22
You seem to be in two minds about whether to push ahead with something you know is right for you but may be wrong for other people.

LEO ♌
JULY 23-AUG 23
Someone you are fond of has got themselves into a lot of unnecessary trouble. Be sympathetic but make sure they learn from it too.

VIRGO ♍
AUG 24-SEPT 22
Don't be afraid to disagree with someone in a higher position today because if you don't they will make other demands you find difficult to accept.

LIBRA ♎
SEPT 23-OCT 23
Although you may be willing to change your plans to help a friend in need you must not think you are obliged to do so.

SCORPIO ♏
OCT 24-NOV 22
Make out that you are not really bothered what loved ones are up to today, even though you may be angry because they did not consult you first.

SAGITTARIUS ♐
NOV 23-DEC 21
The journey you have embarked on may be long and there may be no guarantees, but there is little doubt that you will get there.

CAPRICORN ♑
DEC 22-JAN 20
Don't plan too far ahead today because even routine matters are likely to change. Your time will come, maybe not today but soon.

AQUARIUS ♒
JAN 21-FEB 18
According to the planets you are about to discover that your sympathy for someone you thought was in trouble was misplaced to say the least.

PISCES ♓
FEB 19-MARCH 20
Nothing negative is going to happen today, so don't let your imagination run riot.

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This day in history

1789: A national Thanksgiving Day is observed in the United States as recommended by George Washington.
1842: The University of Notre Dame is founded.
1922: Howard Carter and Lord Carnarvon become the first people to enter the tomb of Pharaoh Tutankhamun in over 3000 years.
1998: Tony Blair becomes the first Prime Minister of the U.K. to address the Republic of Ireland's parliament.
2008: Ten co-ordinated attacks by Pakistan-based terrorists kill 164 and injure more than 250 in Mumbai, India.

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Take Five

Mediterranean Shepherd's Pie

INGREDIENTS:

15 ml (1 tbsp) olive oil
2 medium onions, chopped
1.5 kg (3 lb) ground lamb
2 ml (1/2 tsp) salt
2 ml (1/2 tsp) cracked black pepper
3 cloves garlic, minced
30 ml (2 tbsp) tomato paste
125 ml (1/2 cup) red wine
125 ml (1/2 cup) chicken broth
1 can (796 ml/28 oz) diced tomatoes
1 sprig fresh rosemary
125 ml (1/2 cup) chopped kalamata olives
50 ml (1/4 cup) chopped fresh parsley
Polenta
750 ml (3 cups) water
500 ml (2 cups) ground polenta
750 ml (3 cups) cold milk
5 ml (1 tsp) salt
250 ml (1 cup) fresh grated Parmesan cheese
30 ml (2 tbsp) butter

METHOD:

1) Preheat oven to 190 C (375 F).
2) In a large deep skillet, heat oil over medium-high heat.
3) Add onions and cook, stirring often, until tender and golden, about 10 minutes.
4) Add lamb and cook, breaking up pieces with the back of a spoon, until browned and no pink remains, about 10 minutes.
5) Drain any fat; season with salt and pepper. Add garlic and tomato paste and cook for 1 minute.
6) Add wine and simmer until it is reduced by half.
7) Add broth, tomatoes and rosemary. Adjust heat to maintain a simmer, stirring occasionally until sauce thickens and coats meat, about 15 minutes.
8) Remove from heat. Stir in olives and parsley. Meanwhile, in a large saucepan over high heat, bring water to a boil.
9) Stir in polenta, milk and salt, stirring constantly, until smooth and polenta begins to thicken, about 15 minutes.
10) Reduce heat to medium and cook until polenta begins to bubble and pop, about 10 minutes.
11) Reduce heat to low, stir in Parmesan and butter, continuing to stir until polenta pulls away from sides of the pan, about 10 minutes.
12) To assemble: Spread lamb filling into a 3-l (9-by-13-inch) baking dish.
13) Drop large spoonfuls of polenta evenly over surface of lamb and gently spread to get an even layer.
14) Bake for 30 to 40 minutes until polenta is golden and filling is bubbling around edges. Let cool for 10 minutes before serving.

MAKES 10-12 SERVINGS

Metro Recipes of the Day

RYAN PFEIFFER/THE CANADIAN PRESS

RYAN PFEIFFER/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Mediterranean Shepherd's pie, left, with ground lamb, olives and crumbled feta, right, Brewed Beef with Root Vegetables.

Brewed Beef with Root Vegetables

INGREDIENTS:

2 slices bacon, finely diced
500 g (1 lb) beef blade or cross rib simmering steak, cut into quarters
Salt and pepper, to taste
2 cloves garlic, minced
4 medium onions, thinly sliced
30 ml (2 tbsp) all-purpose flour
10 ml (2 tsp) white wine vinegar
2 ml (1/2 tsp) granulated sugar
5 ml (1 tsp) dried thyme
1 can (284 ml) undiluted beef broth
1 bottle (341 ml) beer
Bay leaves
Roasted Root Vegetables

METHOD:

1)In Dutch oven or stockpot, cook bacon over medium-high heat until crisp; transfer to slow cooker.
2) Season steak with salt and pepper; brown in bacon drippings in Dutch oven and transfer to slow cooker.
3) Add garlic and onions to Dutch oven; cook over medium heat for 10 minutes, stirring occasionally.
4) Stir in flour; cook for 1 minute.
5) Add vinegar, sugar, thyme, beef broth, beer and bay leaves; bring to a simmer.
6) Pour over beef in slow cooker. Cover and slow cook on low for 8 hours or until fork-tender.
7) Serve with Roasted Root Vegetables.

MAKES 4 SERVINGS

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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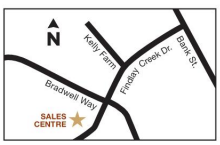

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